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Bishop Cruz says "jueteng" back in 7 provinces

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Pacquiao, Murad settle amicably; promoter to pay court fees

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5 top Red leaders in Luzon arrested

- **World / A8**

Iraq worth American sacrifices—Bush

Peso crashes after Susan rejects Gloria's apology

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday crashed below 56 to the dollar after the widow of actor Fernando Poe Jr., the main rival of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential race, joined the opposition's call for Ms Arroyo to resign.

Currency dealers said the peso plunged to a

PESO/ A18

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Thursday, June 30, 2005 ★★★ 52 pages 6 sections Vol. 20 No. 202 P18

President 'exiles' her husband

By Christine O. Avendaño

BENT on putting her house in order, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced that her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had volunteered to leave the country to be far away from intrigues and controversies hounding the presidency.

The President did not say when or where her husband would go or how long he would be away. But she said that as a wife, she was "grateful" to him for making such a "sacrifice" to allow her to go about serving best the nation.

Since the President came into power in 2001, her husband has been linked to controversies that included corruption charges. Recently, his name was dragged into allegations that he benefited from "jueteng" payoffs, a charge he has denied.

Public trust in the First Gentleman averaged only 22 percent in 11 national surveys by Social Weather Stations from January 2001 to March 2005. An average of 46 percent said they had little trust in him, according to SWS.

Along with the President's brother-in-law Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo and son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, the First Gentleman has been accused of taking payoffs from from operators of jueteng, an illegal numbers game. They all reject the allegations.

Mikey Arroyo took an indefinite leave earlier this month from his seat in the House of Representatives amid the payoffs allegations, which are being investi-

PRESIDENT/ A11

PRESIDENT ARROYO without tears: "As with Ceasar's wife, my husband has volunteered to remove himself from from any situation which will cast doubt on my presidency . . . My family will miss him terribly, and I ask you to help pray that we remain strong as a family." JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Angry Susan calls on GMA to resign

EDWIN BACASMAS

SUSAN without roses: Remember, Mrs. Arroyo, before the foreign investors can trust you, you must first have the the trust of your countrymen, which, unfortunately you have lost. You have embarrassed the Filipinos enough.

FPJ widow ready to join protest rallies

By Fe Zamora

A COMBATIVE Susan Roces yesterday demanded President Macapagal-Arroyo's immediate resignation, saying it would be the "most honorable thing" the latter could do.

"The gravest thing that you (Ms Arroyo) have done is that you have stolen the presidency, not once, but twice," Roces said in a fighting speech at a press conference in the historic Club Filipino in San Juan.

She appeared to be referring to the then Vice President Arroyo's ascent to power in January 2001, after the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, and the defeat of her husband Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's closest rival to the presidency in the 2004 election.

Opposition lawmakers were quick to laud Roces for her remarks, and at least 90 militant groups met to forge an anti-Arroyo coalition dubbed "Laban ng Masa." *(Story on Page A18.)*

Responding to questions later, Poe's widow suggested that she was open to taking part in any movement to unseat Ms Arroyo: "I'm just an ordinary citizen. I don't have the forces. But if somebody will lead, and depending on the timing, I will join."

But she said any action taken must be well thought out.

"Those things are not left to chance. Those things must be studied well," she said, adding that certain groups were now studying various options.

Speaking in Filipino and English and addressing the President as Mrs. Arroyo, Roces said: "I cannot accept your apology. You have betrayed public trust. You do not have the right to lead the people."

She said that watching the "arrogant" President deliver the apology in a televised address, "I could see in your eyes that you again wanted to deceive us. You've again flouted the law for your personal interest, to hide the truth."

ANGRY/ A18

Big Cabinet revamp due, says GMA ally

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michelle V. Remo

"A VERY substantive" government revamp that would "address the concerns of the people" and the convening of a constitutional convention are two major announcements that President Macapagal-Arroyo will make in the next 20 days.

This was according to Rep. Joey Salceda, a presidential economic adviser and one of Ms Arroyo's closest allies.

The major initiatives to be announced every two days in the next three weeks show that she really regrets her "lapse in judgement" when she called up an election officer while the votes in the 2004 presidential election were still being canvassed, Salceda said.

At the Philippine Business Leaders' Forum, the President yesterday made her first major announcement—the forced exile of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who has become a big target of critics because of his perceived meddling in government affairs. *(Story above)*

BIG/ A6

'She's too beautiful to be sent to jail'

By Armand N. Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHEN push came to shove, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez complimented Susan Roces on her looks.

"She's too beautiful to be sent to jail," Gonzalez yesterday said of Roces in the course of stating that the actress broke no law in accusing President Macapagal-Arroyo of stealing the presidency and calling for her resignation.

He said the administration was better off dismissing Roces' scathing remarks in a press conference at the Club Filipino as an outburst of a "griping widow."

"She can keep on griping. It's very clear that her husband was not destined to be president because he died of natural causes," Gonzalez added with a chuckle.

Roces' husband, 2004 opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. died of a massive stroke in December 2004. He then had a pending protest at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, which eventually dismissed the petition.

Asked whether Roces would be charged with inciting to sedition, Gonzalez said her remarks could just be "part of her own aberrations, or of her [right to] freedom of speech."

Gonzalez said the administration did not fear the possibility that Roces'

SHE'S TOO/ A18

BAKA SIYA ANG PAPALIT!

Noli says he's prepared for the presidency

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE President Noli de Castro yesterday said he was prepared to assume the presidency if President Macapagal-Arroyo resigned or was impeached.

"When I ran for vice president, I knew that one of my major duties was always to be prepared in the event the presidency becomes vacant. From Day One since I became vice president, I was prepared for this," De Castro told the INQUIRER.

NOLI/ A6

GMA allies in House foil attempt to play tape

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION lawmakers yesterday foiled an opposition attempt to play the "Gloriagate tape" after constitutional experts told House investigators there was no legal impediment to do so.

Three of the five House committees conducting the investigation of the scandal voted to adjourn at around 5 p.m. yesterday although there was a gentleman's agreement last week that yesterday's hearing could last up to 10 p.m.

Opposition lawmakers cried foul and claimed that there were "flying voters" among the administration camp.

When the hearing resumes at 1 p.m. today, the opposition will question who can vote in the committees, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said.

He added that he would again move for the inquiry to play one version of the recordings submitted by Alan Paguia, former lawyer of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan moved for adjournment after Paguia declined to identify the source of his tape and claimed that he could not say for sure if the tape in the House's custody was the one he submitted last week. He could only identify it by listening to it.

"Play it, your honor, because I know the contents of the tape," Paguia said, drawing applause and gales of laughter from the gallery.

Escudero then moved for the tape to be played but this was rejected. Escudero amended his motion so that Paguia could listen to the tape privately, identify it and later play it to the panel .

Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay, an administration stalwart, denied that the majority railroaded the motion to adjourn.

"It is the opposition that is trying to railroad the playing of the tape. I don't know what script they're following

GMA/ A10

Palace says no desertions as Golez quits GMA party

By Michael Lim Ubac

INVOKING the principle of "country before party," Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez yesterday turned from friend to foe of Malacañang by resigning as chair of the powerful House committee on national defense.

In remarks before the joint House committee inquiring into the "Gloriagate" audio tape yesterday, Golez also tendered his "irrevocable resignation" from the administration Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi), which he helped organize.

PALACE/ A10

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/30/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Jueteng' back with a vengeance – Cruz

By Christian V. Esguerra

CONTRARY to police claims that they had already rooted out jueteng, Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday said the illegal numbers game was in fact back with a vengeance.

Jueteng has quietly reemerged in at least seven provinces because of the "lull" in the Senate investigation of the P13-billion underground industry, according to the bishop.

"Little by little, it's seeping back in some provinces," he told reporters at the Ciudad Fernandina forum in San Juan.

"The list is becoming longer," said Cruz, who heads the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng.

He identified four of these provinces as Laguna, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan and Quezon.

Earlier, he said jueteng operations were also back in in Batangas, Sorsogon and Quirino provinces.

Cruz said the gambling lords were resorting to "guerrilla" or "kangaroo" tactics to elude arrest. He said the bets were collected from different areas but the draws were held elsewhere.

"They're not as rampant as before," he said.

The bishop said his list would include more than 10 provinces by the time he completes the report that he will submit to a Senate hearing on jueteng today.

He said he was still waiting for updates from his group's 62 chapters nationwide.

Cruz belied the Philippine National Police's announcement that it had already stamped out jueteng in most areas of the country.

The announcement came after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a crackdown on the illegal game, following a series of exposes by the crusading bishop.

"We've had many directives like that before and nothing happened," Cruz said.

"I think one of the weakest factors in the Philippines is the implementation of the law. There are many laws but after they are signed, they are practically dead," he said.

The bishop is scheduled to present today his seventh and last witness who he said would testify on how jueteng money had allegedly reached the Office of the President.

He described the male witness as a "liaison officer, bagman and jueteng operator all rolled into one." He did not elaborate.

Cruz said he was supposed to present a total eight witnesses but had to drop the last and "best" one after negotiations bogged down. He described him as "very untenable."

The witness allegedly has knowledge of how jueteng money helped Ms Arroyo in her vice presidential and presidential campaigns.

He said that he and the six previous witnesses that he had presented had been receiving death threats.

Cruz said that last Monday he got a live bullet attached to a note describing him as a "destabilizer."

"I understand these things. If you noticed, my witnesses were lined up in such a way that their testimonies would eventually implicate the top official in government," he said.

27 Filipinos make list of 1,000 women eyed for Nobel

By Leila B. Salaverria

WOMEN FOR NOBEL. Cecile Guidote-Alvarez (center) head the Filipinas listed among the 1,000 women nominated as a group for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2005.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

TWENTY-SEVEN Filipino women who play significant roles in promoting peace and unity in the country are on the list of 1,000 women from 153 nations who have been nominated as a group for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005.

The nominees—socio-civic workers, peace negotiators, educators, lawmakers, graft-busters, among others—were presented yesterday at ceremonies held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines as part of a worldwide initiative to get more women win the prestigious award.

Similar announcements took place in other countries as well, according to organizers.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is expected to announce its choice of the Nobel Peace Prize winner on Oct. 14.

The initiative to bring attention to the significant role women play started in 2003 by Swisspeace, a Switzerland-based nongovernment organization.

Among the nominees in the Philippines are former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government Haydee Yorac, filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya, art patron Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

Karen Tañada, one of the project's coordinators for the Southeast Asian region, said it was about time that women's important roles like healing the wounds of war and scars of family violence were recognized.

"Why not reward the work of these women and why not the most prestigious award, the Nobel Peace Prize?" she asked, noting that only 12 women had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Swiss Ambassador to the Philippines Lise Favre, one of the speakers yesterday, said she had had plenty of time to realize the importance of the role women play in the country.

Quoting from an Indian regional coordinator, Favre said the choice of 1,000 nominees was significant. "One thousand is a symbol. It is a symbol saying peace is not a dramatic activity. It is done piece by piece."

The Philippines has the seventh most number of nominees among the 153 participating countries. India has the most number of nominees with 91, followed by China (81), Brazil (52), the United States (40), Russia (35), and Pakistan (29).

The other nominees from the Philippines are Piang Tahshim Albar, a Muslim community worker in Mindanao who also works with Tausugs; Mary Lou Alcid, a migrants' rights advocate; Adoracion Cruz Avisado, a feminist lawyer from Davao City; Loretta Navarro-Castro, a pioneer of peace education research; Maria Lorenza Palm-Dalupan, the executive director of the Peace Commission under two presidents;

Teresita Quintos-Deles, presidential adviser on the peace process; Sister Mariani Dimaranan, of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines; Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, a Political Science professor and leader in the fight against land mines; Hadja Bainon Karon, a worker for the improvement of the plight of the Bangsamoro people; Myla Jabilles Leguro, who is involved in Muslim-Christian dialogue in Mindanao;

Zenaida Tan-Lim, who helps the widows and orphans of the victims of the conflict between the Moro National Liberation Front and the Philippine troops; Delia Santiago-Locsin, a peace advocate in Negros Occidental; June Pagaduan-Lopez, a psychiatrist who has helped victims of human rights abuse; Seiko Bodios Obashi, a facilitator of the trading of agricultural products in Negros province to Japan; Zenaida Hamada-Pawid of the Cordillera People's Forum.

8 of 10 Pinoys feel things are not better

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

EIGHT out of 10 Filipinos felt there had been no improvement in the economy, recording the highest dissatisfaction rate in the entire Asia-Pacific region, according to a survey released yesterday.

The survey, conducted by AC Nielsen from April 11 to May 10, said only 15 percent of the Filipino respondents felt an improvement in the economy in the last six months.

The firm said the results showed a slight improvement from the same period last year, during which only 7 percent of the respondents said the economy had improved.

Still, the country has the lowest rate of perceived improvement among countries in Asia, according to AC Nielsen.

The survey was done over the Internet so respondents were mostly from the middle to the upper class – those who can afford Internet connection.

More than 70 percent of about 500 Filipino respondents are also based in Metro Manila, according to information systems technology director Elena von Tooren.

For the survey sample in the Philippines, the group claimed a plus or minus 4.4 percent margin of error.

In neighboring Indonesia, which is also battling its own political instability, at least 18 percent of the respondents said they felt their economy had improved.

The highest rate was recorded in India, where at least 79 percent of the respondents said their economy had improved.

But Van Tooren predicted there could still be some changes now in how the Filipinos perceive the economy.

The survey was done weeks before the "jueteng" scandals and allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo rigged the 2004 election, as well as the increase in jeepney fares and oil prices.

The survey showed that at least 65 percent of the Filipino respondents listed the economy as one of their two biggest concerns.

The AC Nielsen survey said this was the trend throughout Asia, except in Australia and New Zealand, where residents were most concerned with health issues. In China, respondents were worried about job security, it added.

"We know we have a lot of problems in the country (Philippines). We think things are very bad. But other countries also experience difficulties," Van Tooren said.

Just like in previous surveys, some respondents still expressed optimism that the economy would improve next year. Seventy-six percent, however, believed the economy would just stagnate, or even deteriorate, in the next 12 months.

The feeling of uncertainty was also evident in the consumer habits of the Filipinos, the survey said, with two out of every three respondents saying this was not a good time to buy things they need and want.

GMA calls tripartite meet on 'oil shock'

SAYING that soaring world oil prices posed a serious threat to the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the convening of a tripartite national conference to address the "oil shock."

"As I begin the second phase of my reform, we are faced with a looming oil crisis, that is, if the surge in the prices of crude oil in the world market remains unabated," she told business leaders gathered at the Manila Polo Club in Makati for the First Philippines Business Leaders' Conference.

Ms Arroyo said she had instructed Trade Secretary Juan Santos to convene a tripartite national conference to prepare the country to weather the impact of high oil prices.

With oil prices standing above $60 per barrel, the President said she was "aware of the heavy burden borne by everyone in this country, including the business community."

The President urged the business community to support her in the second phase of her reform program as she noted the "enormous" reform task that the government was facing.

The other day, the President warned against the serious threat posed by soaring oil prices and asked Filipinos to conserve energy. *Christine Avendaño*

2 US envoys leave 'turmoil' in RP

By Nikko Dizon

ON THE eve of their departure from the Philippines, two outgoing United States Embassy officials noted the country's "state of turmoil" and stressed that the truth over allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo may have been involved in electoral fraud should come out.

Karen Kelly, the embassy spokesperson, said the United States continued to "support democratic institutions and the duly elected" government and was for "accountability, transparency and the rule of law."

"It is important that the truth is revealed and that the democratic process is followed," Kelly told reporters at a farewell dinner late Tuesday for her and the public affairs chief Ronald Post.

The two embassy officials have completed their three-year tour of duty in Manila and are going on to new postings.

In brief remarks, Post said he continued to believe in the Filipinos' resilience and expressed optimism that the country would weather the latest crisis.

Kelly noted that she was leaving the Philippines in the "same state of turmoil" that she found it when she arrived in 2001, the year when Ms Arroyo, the then vice president, took over the nation's helm as the constitutional successor to ousted President Estrada.

She said the 2004 presidential elections were deemed "credible and fair" by observers from the US Embassy and other international organizations.

Asked if that assessment would still hold in light new developments, Kelly said the international observers had made their assessment at the time.

"They were here on the ground. They're not here (now) obviously, so to measure everything in light of all the changes, they can't do it. I think, at this point, it is up to the Filipino people and their elected officials to decide what the next steps are from here," she said.

Fil-Am's donation puts Arnold under fire

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Contributor

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, California—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has come under fire for accepting close to $70,000 in campaign contributions from a Filipino-American businessman whose company faces criminal elder-neglect charges.

Campaign finance reports show that Schwarzenegger accepted the contributions from Emmanuel Bernabe, whose company runs 35 nursing homes throughout the state and employs several Filipino-American health workers and caregivers.

Bernabe resides in this picturesque Los Angeles suburb in the foothills that is known for its million-dollar homes. His 20-year-old company, Pleasant Care Corp., is also based here.

The governor's top political aide and fundraising coordinator Marty Wilson said they have started to conduct an internal investigation into the matter and will consider returning Bernabe's campaign contributions.

"We expect to have a resolution (on the matter) very soon," said Wilson in a phone interview. Wilson said he did not have any prior knowledge of legal battles faced by Bernabe's company.

A San Francisco-based watchdog group, California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, sharply criticized the governor for accepting contributions from Bernabe.

"The amount that Mr. Bernabe contributed to his campaign may be peanuts compared to contributions made by other donors," said the group's Executive Director Pat McGinnis.

"But it's very interesting that, suddenly, Mr. Bernabe started making these contributions."

"The governor should check the background of (donors) before accepting their contributions," McGinnis added.

Since Schwarzenegger took office in November 2003, state regulators have cited 11 of Bernabe's homes more than 50 times and slapped them with about $285,000 in fines, McGinnis said, citing Department of Health records compiled by her group. Bernabe has disputed the citations.

Last week, state Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed a 13-count complaint against Pleasant Care Corp., claiming that the company and its facility in Napa—a city in Northern California that is famous for its wineries—neglected residents and endangered their health. Bernabe's company pleaded not guilty, but the Napa facility has been ordered closed.

According to one of the citations, the facility allegedly failed to properly treat an elderly woman's bedsores. The untreated sores spread, and this alleged neglect was blamed for her death.

Bernabe's company was also charged with wage and child labor violations in 2002, according to US Department of Labor records. His company agreed to a $1.1 million settlement.

The issue of Bernabe's campaign contributions was raised shortly after Schwarzenegger's campaign announced that it would return a $10,000 donation from a donor who is under investigation for an investment scandal in Ohio.

Meanwhile, sources within the Filipino-American community said Bernabe is a known supporter of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Earlier reports by Filipino newspapers in Los Angeles named Bernabe as a contributor to Pimentel's election campaign.

Bernabe could not be immediately reached for comment.

(Nimfa Rueda, a former INQUIRER reporter, is managing editor of La Cañada Weekly, Burbank Weekly and Glendale Independent.)

Gov't eyes settlement of Naia 3 row this year

THE PHILIPPINES expects to settle all claims against a controversial $650-million Manila airport terminal and hopes to open it by next year, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said Tuesday.

He told a business conference that separate arbitration proceedings over the airport terminal in Singapore and Washington would last "probably another year."

However, Purisima said the government was completing the construction of the terminal and had deposited money in a bank to be used in the event the courts uphold the expropriation of the terminal, built by a consortium, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco).

This would allow the terminal to be used by the public as early as this year if the legal problems can be settled, he added.

Purisima added that there were "private entities trying to resolve this outside of the court" but he would not elaborate.

The terminal had been mothballed since 2003 when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo revoked the developing consortium's "build-operate-transfer" contract with the government on the grounds that certain terms were illegally renegotiated by her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada in 1998.

Estrada was toppled in a bloodless, military-backed popular revolt in 2001 and is on trial for unrelated charges of corruption.

One of the consortium's members, Fraport AG of Germany, has been seeking compensation of $465 million for the terminal project and the case is currently under international arbitration in Washington. *AFP*

FIGHTERS FOR DEMOCRACY - *President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo acknowledges media tycoon and* President/CEO of Bombo Radyo Philippines Dr. Rogelio M. Florete's contribution to *Philippine democracy in simple rites during the awarding of the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Award for Nationalism last June 24, 2005 at the Rizal Hall, Malacañang of* which Dr. Florete was one of the select recipients. *Also on hand for the awarding ceremonies was the former President Corazon C. Aquino, widow of the late Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr.*

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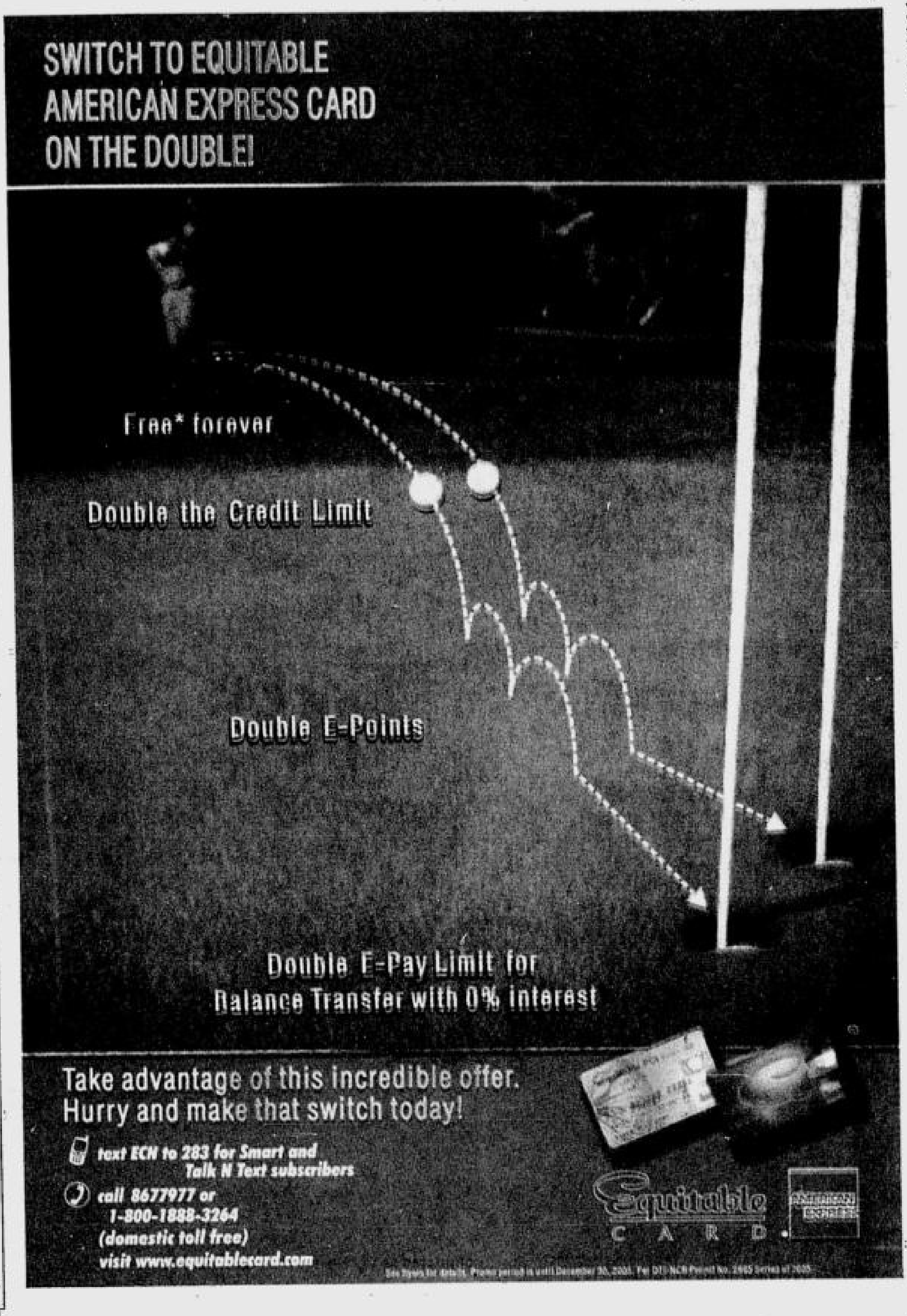
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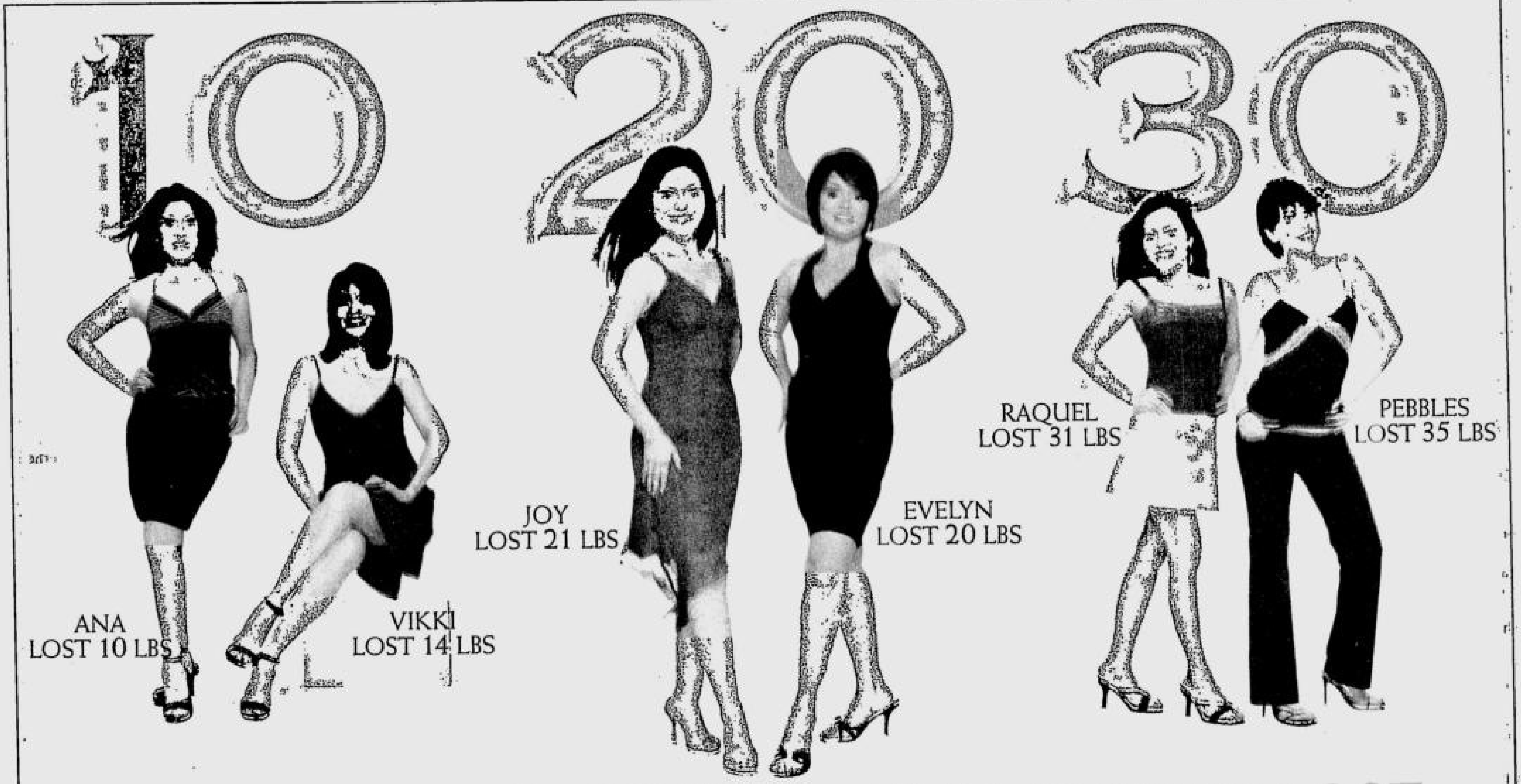

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Defense stalling Erap trial, gov't lawyers complain

Even newsmen covering the trial called to testify

SPECIAL Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio yesterday challenged the lawyers of ousted President Estrada to put him on the witness stand to refute all the charges against him and stop presenting irrelevant and immaterial witnesses.

Villa-Ignacio issued the challenge after this reporter was called to testify by defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano concerning a number of articles that he had written on the plunder trial of the jailed ex-president.

The prosecutor noted that in the past three months, Estrada's lawyers have presented a notary public, a book author and journalists as witnesses even if their testimonies were insignificant and had no bearing on the criminal charges against Estrada.

"We do not know how long this will continue. The defense is just killing time and wasting the court's time," he said.

He said the defense panel should present Estrada as "to our mind he is a relevant witness."

He said Estrada's testimony could be scheduled on July 13 to give his lawyers more time to prepare him.

Villa-Ignacio denied defense lawyers' charge that the prosecution was extremely hostile to their client. He said he had not made any derogatory remarks against Estrada.

Flaminiano said Villa-Ignacio's statement about the defense witnesses was "very unprofessional." He said it was the court that would determine whether the testimonies of defense witnesses were irrelevant or immaterial.

Flaminiano said the defense panel can "present any witness" it deemed important to the defense of Estrada.

He said that aside from extreme prejudice, Estrada was a victim of selective prosecution and extreme hostility and bias by government prosecutors.

"The duty of the prosecution is not to convict but to see that justice is done," Flaminiano reminded Villa-Ignacio.

"Philippine Star" reporter Delon Porcalla also testified about an article that he wrote on the plunder trial.

Estrada is facing plunder charges, an offense punishable with death, and perjury charges in connection with allegations that he received bribes from illegal gambling operators and kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes.

Nelson F. Flores

It's turning into 'moro-moro'– Chavit

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the whistle-blower in the jueteng scandal that led to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada, yesterday strongly urged the Supreme Court to stop the "moro-moro" of the defense panel in the Estrada plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan.

"The Supreme Court must put a stop to this mockery of justice being perpetrated by the defense panel which has been presenting all sorts of witnesses. One time, the panel presented a prosecution lawyer as its witness. Now they are presenting members of media covering the trial. And I fear that pretty soon, they will be presenting even those who are merely there to witness the proceedings," Singson said in a statement.

"Obviously," Singson added, "the defense is waiting for something big to happen, to explode. That's why they're doing everything to delay the trial. I urge the Supreme Court to do something to compel the defense panel to present whatever evidence it has now, if it has any, so that the case can be resolved, one way or another, as soon as possible."

"I've said it before and I will say it again, our legal institutions and this administration owe it to the people to resolve the case as soon as possible. We cannot continue this foot-dragging. So much depends on its resolution—our economic and political stability and our unity and peace of mind as a people," Singson said.

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15 June 2005

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 13 s-2005

TO : All Members of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), Accredited Health Care Providers and All Others Concerned

SUBJECT: New Design of the PhilHealth Family Card for Indigents

PLEASE be advised that effective immediately the Corporation shall be adopting a slight modification in the design of the PhilHealth Family Health Card intended for indigent members as proof of their membership in the National Health Insurance Program.

The new ID Card has a lighter green color than that previously issued through PhilHealth Circular No. 32, s. 2004. Instead of the slogan "Healing the Wounds of Poverty", it now bears the catchphrase "PhilHealth Your Partner in Health" on the upper left corner of the card just beside the clear PhilHealth logo. Also, the larger PhilHealth logo on the lower right portion of the card is now watermarked and only slightly visible.

All previously issued ID Cards under PhilHealth Circular Nos. 4 and 32, series of 2004 shall still be honored as proof of eligibility in availing of the PhilHealth benefits of both members and dependents within the validity period indicated therein.

All other provisions of the said Circulars shall remain in full force and effect.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
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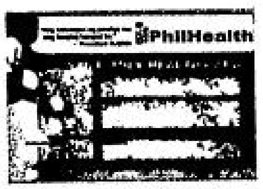
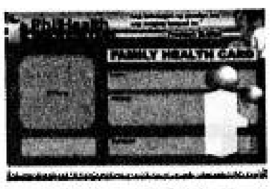
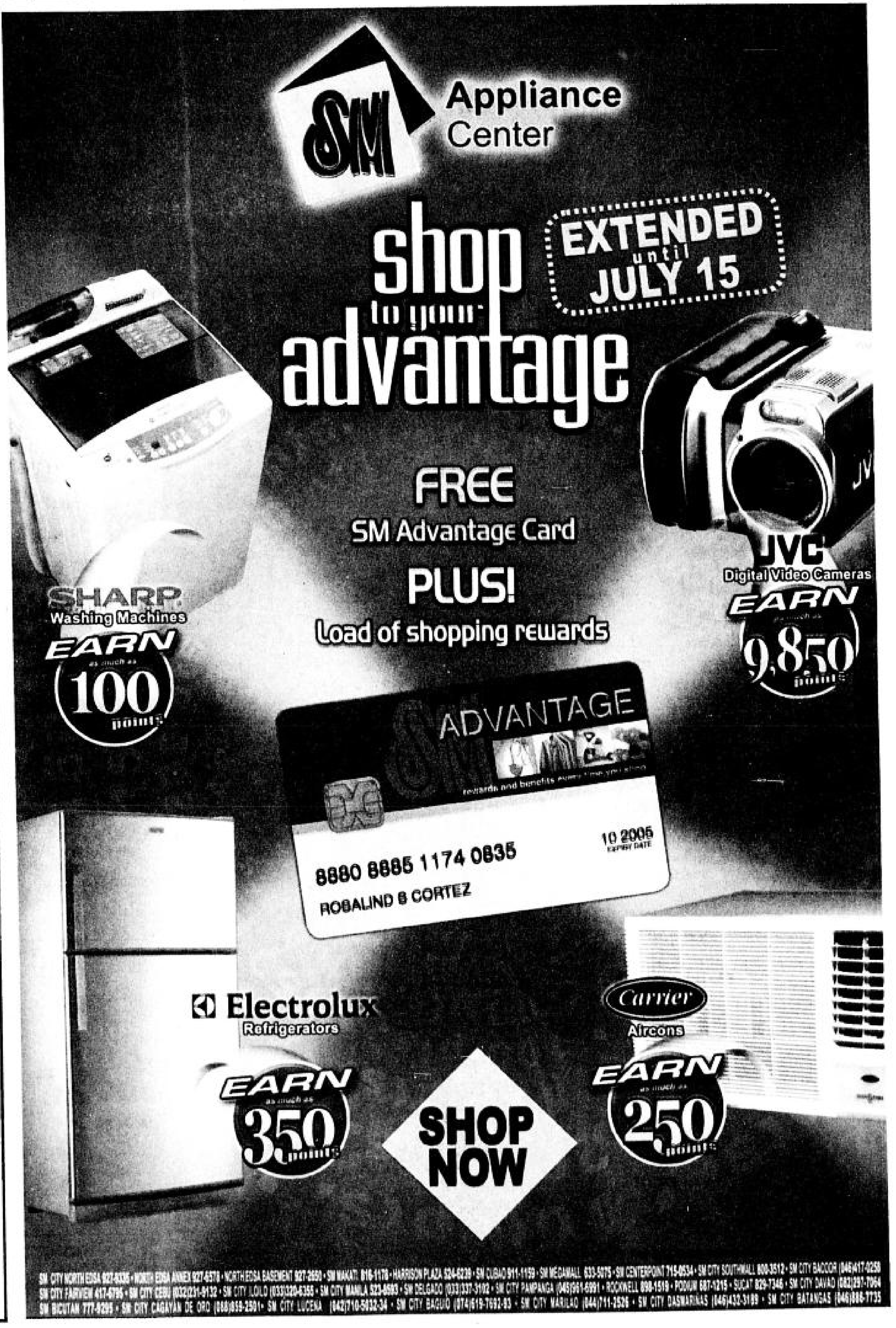


ID design under PhilHealth Circular 04, s.2004



ID design under PhilHealth Circular 32, s.2004

New design



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Noli says he's prepared for the presidency

From page A1

An administration senator, who did not wish to be named, rejected suggestions by some quarters that De Castro was not acceptable as Ms Arroyo's successor.

Question of fitness

"It's not a question of whether he's acceptable to the people or not. He is the Vice President who is the constitutional successor," he said.

The senator said the issue of whether De Castro was intellectually fit to be President was beside the point. He said De Castro was elected by the people for the job and that vested him with the right to become President.

He said it would be De Castro's constitutional mandate to take his oath as President immediately the moment Ms Arroyo stepped down or was removed from office.

'Spare tire'

De Castro said he had refrained from talking about his role as a "spare tire" in the midst of the wiretapping controversy and calls for Ms Arroyo to resign. He said he did not wish to create the impression that he was plotting to oust the President.

He insisted that there was still no compelling reason for the President to resign in spite of her admission on Monday that she talked to an election official during the counting of votes during the 2004 elections.

"She did not say she cheated," De Castro said.

He said he had forgiven the President and was still willing to serve her and implement her social reform programs.

The Vice President is chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), which oversees the implementation of the government's housing program.

De Castro stressed that he was elected as the second top official of the land in accordance with the Constitution although there was a pending election protest by his opponent, former Sen. Loren Legarda, before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

"The Constitution is our bible. I was elected in accordance with the Constitution. Now if we remove the President without going through the lawful process, this is not right. If we do not follow the procedure, there will be anarchy," De Castro said.

Opposition demands

The senator also referred to opposition demands that Susan Roces, widow of the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. who lost to Ms Arroyo in last year's election, seek the presidency. While Roces had not categorically stated she wanted Ms Arroyo's job, he said it was clear from her "body language" that she would run if a snap election was held.

"The opposition wants to be the accuser and the anointer. They want to be in the saddle without a mandate from the people," the senator said. He said all those asking for Ms Arroyo's resignation wanted to shelve the Constitution and crown themselves as the new government. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Big Cabinet revamp due, says GMA ally

From page A1

Some businessmen praised Ms Arroyo's action and expressed hope that the country's attention would now turn to economic matters.

"She has done what she feels needs to be done. What we've got in President Arroyo is a woman who is not afraid to make tough decisions, not afraid to make tough calls," said Michael Clancy, forum chair.

Clancy agreed with the President that in the hierarchy of her responsibilities, the country should come first before her family.

He said controversies hounding the First Family had somehow dragged down government's economic-growth efforts.

Pacita Juan, owner of the coffee chain Figaro, said the decision of Ms Arroyo would put herself back on track to accomplishing her administration's tasks.

"The economic plan is so beautiful. It just needs the right execution. By doing this (letting her husband leave the country), she showed she wanted to prove a point that this plan is going to work out," Juan said.

But Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., said businessmen felt that while the move of Ms Arroyo to get her husband out of public view was commendable, they wanted something more substantial.

"We (the businessmen) want something that will have an impact on our economy like curbing corruption, smuggling and tax evasion or perhaps an overhaul of all government appointees," Ortiz-Luis said.

Nine to go

Salceda said businessmen should be patient and just wait for the President's next nine initiatives "aimed at regaining or earning the trust of the people" following her admission that she called up an election official in the middle of canvassing of the votes.

He said the reforms included "a very substantive" government revamp that would "address the concerns of the people" and the creation of a constitutional convention.

A Palace source confirmed the Cabinet overhaul to the INQUIRER last night.

An ABS-CBN report, quoting unnamed sources close to Ms Arroyo, yesterday said the President would purge her Cabinet of at least four secretaries and two other officials close to her husband. The announcement will reportedly be made on Friday.

Among those reportedly to be sacked were Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and chief presidential legal counsel Merceditas Gutierrez, the report said.

Three non-Cabinet officials would also lose their jobs, it said.

"We're not aware of any plans to reorganize the Cabinet, said Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser on political affairs, when reached by the INQUIRER last night for comment on the ABS-CBN report. He said he had just met with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Mendoza and Ebdane previously served as national police chiefs under Ms Arroyo. Yap is facing tax evasion charges launched by the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Take away pawns

"To show the king is not around, take away the pawns because what are the pawns for but to protect the king?" Salceda said. He did not identify those who would be removed from office.

The revamp is expected to affect "strategic business units of the government" with only "minor changes" in the Cabinet.

"This is going to be close to a massacre. We're talking about big government-owned and -controlled corporations. These are the more lucrative positions," Salceda said.

"We will remove people that erode the President's credibility, build an army of technocrats which means getting fresh talents in the business and private sector and elements in the reasonable opposition on board. We will rebuild the Arroyo technocracy," he said.

Speed up Charter change

Salceda said the President told the foreign investors at a lunch meeting that she would move toward accelerating her timetable for constitutional change "as soon as possible."

With the passage of the expanded value-added tax law, the lawmaker said the President's State of the Nation Address next month would be entirely about constitutional change.

He said the President would also address the prolonged idleness of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 and the delays in the implementation of the Mass Rail Transit 7.

Salceda said the President would probably ask for between three and six months "to prove that she's worth their trust" and which "will justify that she should stay to rule and lead."

Give administration a chance

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who also spoke before the businessmen, asked the audience to give the administration a chance to prove that the economic and fiscal targets would be achieved.

He said the fiscal reforms so far implemented had accelerated the attainment of the government's fiscal targets.

"I am convinced that with your help, we will be able to sustain the emerging trends. It is really a matter of giving us the benefit of the doubt," Purisima said.

Purisima said the national government's budget deficit this year would fall to P160 billion, better than the official target of P180 billion. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño*

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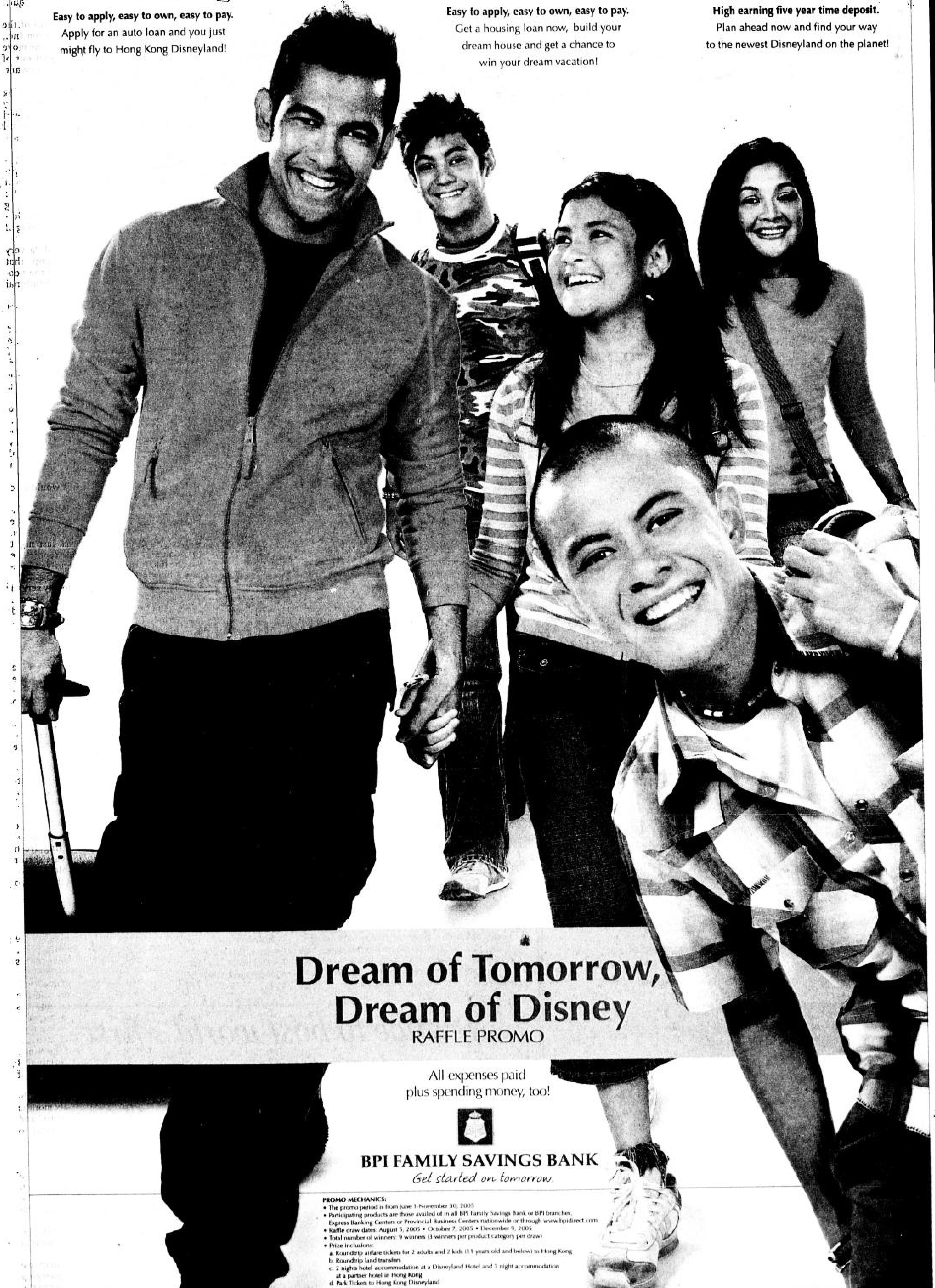

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq worth American sacrifices – Bush

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina—President George W. Bush rejected suggestions that he set a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq or send in more troops, counseling patience for Americans who question the war's painful costs.

"Is the sacrifice worth it? It is worth it and it is vital to the security of our country," Bush told a nation increasingly doubtful about the toll of the 27-month-old war.

Bush spoke in a Tuesday night address for a half-hour from an Army base that has 9,300 troops in Iraq, hoping to convince the public that his strategy for victory needs only time—not any changes—to be successful. He offered no shift in course.

"We have a clear path forward," he said. "As the Iraqis stand up, we will stand down."

The audience of 750 soldiers and airmen in dress uniform listened mostly quietly—as they were asked to do to reflect the somber nature of the speech—only breaking into applause when Bush vowed that the United States "will stay in the fight until the fight is won."

Bush said he understands the public concerns about a war that has killed over 1,740 Americans and at least 12,000 Iraqi civilians and cost US$200 billion. "Like most Americans, I see the images of violence and bloodshed," he said. "Every picture is horrifying and the suffering is real."

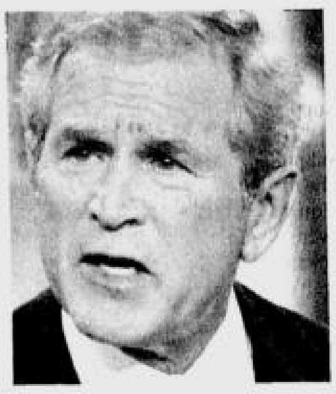
It was a tricky balancing act, believed necessary by White House advisers who have seen dozens of deadly insurgent attacks each day eat into Americans' support for the war—and for the president—and increase discomfort even among Republicans in Congress.

Democrats and other critics said the country needed to hear more specifics about how to reach success in Iraq.

"The president's Iraq policy is adrift, disconnected from the reality on the ground and in need of major midcourse corrections," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. "Staying the course, as the president advocates, is neither sustainable nor likely to lead to the success we all seek."

Recalling the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks a half dozen times and suggesting a link with the Iraq war, Bush said the United States faces an enemy that has made Iraq the central front in the war on terror. Fighters have been captured from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Libya and other nations, Bush said.

Democrats were quick to react to Bush's repeated mentions of Sept. 11. *AP*



BUSH

Britain to launch ambitious ID scheme

LONDON—Britain's plans to launch the world's most ambitious biometric identity cards cleared their first hurdle on Tuesday, despite the first revolt against Prime Minister Tony Blair since his reelection.

His government's 66-seat majority in the lower house was cut to 31 when lawmakers voted in favor of the cards, designed to counter terrorism, crime and illegal immigration.

Despite the setback for Blair, who was returned to office with a reduced majority on May 5, the proposals will continue their long journey to becoming law.

If accepted, it would be the first time Britons have carried ID cards since they were abolished after World War II by the government of Winston Churchill.

Critics, who say cards are expensive, unnecessary and intrusive, fear they would eventually become compulsory.

The cards would use biometric technology in fingerprint, face and iris recognition.

Neil Fisher, director of security and intelligence at British technology group QinetiQ, said many other countries were watching the British progress.

"Nobody has ever undertaken an identity card system with this complexity before, using three biometrics ..." he told Reuters.

"America in particular is watching us with close interest and I think if we do go forward with this and we get it right, it will be a model for many people to follow."

The opposition Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties say they will vote against the cards.

"We can see no benefits, huge costs and a serious risk to civil liberties and privacy," Conservative shadow home Secretary David Davis said on Tuesday.

Although Blair's House of Commons majority was reduced in May's election, and some of his Labour members of parliament may vote against in protest, political analysts do not expect the plan to be rejected.

A study on Monday said the cost of the scheme could soar to 19 billion pounds ($35 billion)—three times official estimates—but Blair dismissed it as wildly exaggerated.

Voluntary cards would not be introduced before 2008 at the earliest and they would not be made compulsory before 2013, and only then if parliament agrees, the government says.

ID cards are used in about a dozen EU countries, although they are not always compulsory and do not carry as much data.

Tuesday's vote was the start of a long parliamentary process which will see the bill debated many times. *Reuters*

BEATIFICATION

A faithful holds a photo of late Pope John Paul II during a ceremony in St. John Lateran basilica in Rome Tuesday. AP

US Chinook helicopter down in Afghanistan

KABUL—A US Chinook helicopter that crashed in eastern Afghanistan was likely shot down by hostile fire, and the fate of 17 American service members is unclear, the US military said Wednesday. The Taliban claimed to have attacked the aircraft.

The troops were on a mission against al-Qaida fighters in eastern Afghanistan when the helicopter went down on Tuesday in mountainous terrain near Asadabad, in Kunar province.

"The helicopter was transporting forces into the area as part of Operation Red Wing, which is part of the enduring fight to defeat al-Qaida militants and deny them influence in Kunar province," a military statement said. "Initial reports indicate the crash may have been caused by hostile fire. The status of the service members is unknown at this time."

US spokesperson Lt. Cindy Moore said no other details about those on board, including whether they were feared dead, was available.

If confirmed, Tuesday's attack would appear to be the first time a US-led coalition aircraft here has been downed by hostile fire—representing a major new threat to the coalition. The US-backed mujahideen war against Soviet occupiers in Afghanistan in the 1980s finally turned when the Afghan fighters figured out how to shoot down Soviet aircraft.

Concerns already have been on the rise that war here is escalating into a conflict on the scale of that in Iraq.

More than 660 people have been killed in Afghanistan since March—including 465 suspected insurgents, 29 US troops, 43 Afghan police and soldiers, and 125 civilians—a level unprecedented since the ouster of the Taliban in 2001.

The military statement said coalition and Afghan troops had "quickly moved into position around the crash to block any enemy movement toward or away from the site" and that coalition support aircraft were overhead. *AP*

ERRATUM

The UPMG Special Screening of the "War of the Worlds" on July 1, 2005 will be at Glorietta 4, Cinema 3, 7:30p.m. and not Greenbelt 3, Cinema 2 as stated in the ad on the lifestyle Section E, page 3 of today's issue.

Nasa to launch space shuttle in July

WASHINGTON—The United States is ready for the launch next month of its first space shuttle since the Columbia disaster in 2003, despite doubts expressed by an official committee of experts, the Nasa chief said Tuesday.

"We are ready to go," Michael Griffin, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), told a Congress committee.

Nasa experts will hold a final "flight readiness review" meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. And the US space agency will then set a launch date for Discovery, with a blastoff window between July 13 and July 31.

Griffin's optimism contrasted with a panel set up to oversee Nasa's resumption of shuttle flights.

The Return to Flight task force said in a report Monday that the space agency had been unable to eliminate the possibility of pieces of foam and ice breaking off the external fuel tank and striking the shuttle at lift-off—the cause of the Columbia disaster.

The committee, which includes two former astronauts, said Nasa had failed to "totally meet" three of the 15 conditions set for the resumption of flights.

But several members of the panel said Nasa should still be allowed to resume the flights as it had clearly boosted safety after Columbia.

"We feel that it is a safe vehicle to fly," said panel member Joseph Cuzzupoli.

Griffin told the House of Representatives' Science Committee: "I have been participating in every technical review.

"I have required a picture where we are. I have been tremendously impressed by the team's work, and I think based on what I know now, we are ready to go." Engineers finished last week a detailed examination of modifications carried out to the space shuttles since Columbia caught fire and broke apart as it reentered the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003, killing all seven crew members.

The disaster has been attributed to damage sustained by the spacecraft after it was hit by chunks of insulating foam that broke off during lift-off.

All US space shuttles have been grounded since and Nasa has been forced to reform its administration and carry out major changes to the shuttle programme.

Discovery has a new external fuel tank, while a new heater has been added to the fuel feedline pipe. *AFP*

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France to host world's first nuclear fusion reactor

MOSCOW—France is to host the experimental ITER nuclear fusion reactor, a multi-billion-dollar project designed to emulate the power of the sun, an international consortium agreed in Moscow on Tuesday, after Japan withdrew its rival bid in return for compensation.

"Today we are making history in terms of international scientific cooperation. After long and difficult negotiations, the six parties... have decided that ITER should be located at the site proposed by the European Union—Cadarache in southern France," the EU's science and research commissioner, Janez Potocnik, said after a meeting in the Russian capital.

Ending years of wrangling, the six ITER partners—the EU, the United States, Russia, Japan, South Korea and China—reached an agreement after Japan withdrew its bid to host the 10-billion-euro ($12 billion), 30-year project.

French President Jacques Chirac said he was "delighted" that France had been chosen to host the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

Hailing the choice of Cadarache as "a great success for France, for Europe and for all the partners in ITER," Chirac said he would visit the site on Thursday.

The French president also said he had written to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to assure him that Japan's interests in the project would be "fully taken into account."

In return for giving up its bid, the EU has promised Japan 20 percent of staff posts and 20 percent of construction contracts for the project, as well as support for a suitable Japanese candidate for the post of director general of the ITER organization.

The EU will also finance 50 percent of a so far unspecified ancillary project to ITER in Japan and support Japan as the site for a demonstration fusion power plant that could result from the ITER research, said Antonia Mochan, Potocnik's spokesperson.

The vision behind the ITER project is of a world where energy will be cheap, clean, safe and almost infinite. Instead of splitting the atom—the principle behind current nuclear plants—the project seeks to harness nuclear fusion: the power of the sun and the stars. *AFP*

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Gaza pullout opposition mounts

JERUSALEM—Extremist opponents of Israel's Gaza pullout plan scattered nails and oil across a main highway during morning rush hour Wednesday, bringing traffic to a halt in the first of a wave of violent demonstrations planned later in the day.

Several cars were damaged on the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, and police warned of plans to disrupt vital water and electricity supplies.

"This was an ugly act, throwing oil and hundreds of 'ninja' nails on the road," traffic police chief Reuven Edri told Israel Radio. No injuries were reported, and the road was reopened within an hour.

Internal Security Minister Gideon Ezra promised a harsh response. "When we find out who did this we will deal with them with the full force of the law. This could have caused a terrible accident," he told the radio.

"We will act with all the power we have to prevent these road blockings," Ezra said.

Israel plans to withdraw from the entire Gaza Strip and four small West Bank settlements in mid-August, uprooting about 9,000 Jewish settlers from their homes.

Settler groups strongly oppose the plan, and with the pullout approaching, authorities fear the resistance could turn increasingly violent. Mainstream settler groups have said they will resist only through nonviolent means.

An extremist group called "National Home" announced plans to block more than a dozen highways at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) Wednesday, during evening rush hour. The group stopped traffic last month, sending teenagers and children to sit down on roads behind burning tires. Dozens were arrested.

National Home condemned Wednesday morning's protest and said it was not involved. "This is a dangerous provocation that endangers lives and runs contrary to our principles of nonviolent civil disobedience," the group said. The main Gaza settlers' group also condemned the protest.

Also Wednesday, police said they had arrested a number of opponents of the withdrawal who were planning to disrupt water and electricity supplies.

"We have information, information that was confirmed after a number of arrests, that there is an intention to disrupt and harm infrastructures," police commander Yaakov Peleg told Army Radio. "This is dangerous," he said, adding that the investigation was still in the early stages.

The main settlers' council staged a quieter protest Monday, with thousands of people lining the sides of major highways, chanting slogans and holding up posters, but not interfering with traffic.

The council has denounced the tactics of the extremist groups. But National Home leaders claim their tougher tactics are responsible for a drop in support for the pullout plan, reflected by recent surveys.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Tuesday both warned their people against violence, reflecting concern that extremists on both sides could trigger confrontations during the evacuation. *AP*

Canada set to legalize same-sex marriages

TORONTO—Canada's House of Commons passed landmark legislation Tuesday to legalize gay marriage, granting same-sex couples legal rights equal to those in traditional unions between a man and a woman.

The bill passed as expected, despite opposition from Conservatives and religious leaders. The legislation drafted by Prime Minister Paul Martin's minority Liberal Party government was also expected to easily pass the Senate and become federal law by the end of July.

Although gay marriage is already legal in seven provinces, the bill now grants all same-sex couples in Canada the same legal rights as those in traditional union between a man and a woman.

The Netherlands and Belgium are the only other nations that allow gay marriage nationwide.

It was the last major piece of legislation before Parliament recessed for summer and comes on the first anniversary of Martin's leadership.

Thirty-three of Martin's Liberal lawmakers voted against the bill and a Cabinet minister resigned Tuesday over the contentious legislation. But enough allies rallied to support the bill that has been debated for months. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 30, 2005
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 22:1-19
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake again, and came to his hometown. Here they brought a paralyzed man to him, lying on a bed. Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven."

Then some teachers of the Law said to themselves, "This man insults God." Jesus was aware of what they were thinking, and said, "Why have you such evil thoughts? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up and walk'? You must know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralyzed man, "Stand up! Take your stretcher and go home." The man got up, and went home.

When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to human beings.

Commentary

Jesus comes home and a paralyzed man is brought to him and he sees the faith of the man's friends, his community and forgives him, telling him to have courage! Not what people were expecting at all. Some of the teachers of the law are horrified and consider Jesus' words insulting to God! And Jesus knows what they're thinking and calls them on it-they cannot rejoice in the forgiveness of others, so he says to them-is it easier to forgive another's sin, or to tell him to get up and walk? They don't answer-which is easier? Jesus commands the man to stand up, pick up his stretcher and go home! And the man does! He obeys the word of God. Forgiveness frees and liberates and sets on the way to community and life in God. The crowds are awed (but it never says that any of them follow Jesus.) Do we rejoice in the forgiveness of others? Do we live so as to bring others to Jesus for help and strength to walk again into life and live in freedom as the children of God? Or are we more concerned with specifics of doctrine than the liberation of so many people in need?

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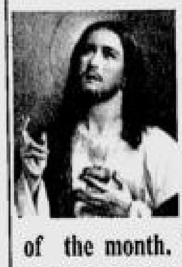

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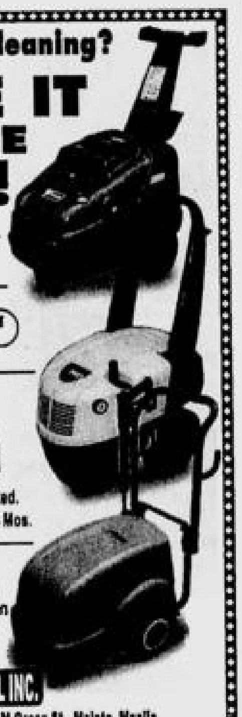

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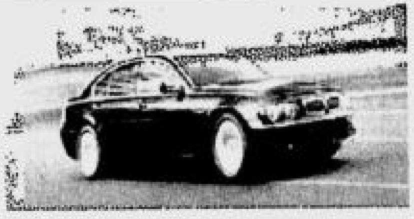

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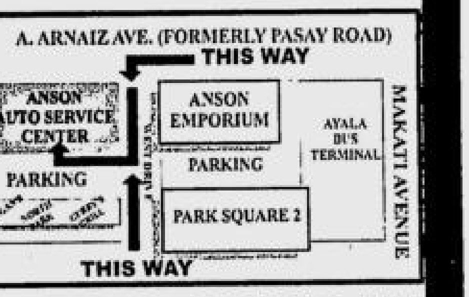

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GMA allies in House foil try to play tape

From page A1

that they are so eager to play it," he said.

Pichay said the hearing had to adjourn because the committees did not even know what version of the tapes to play and that administration lawmakers still wanted to question the legal experts invited yesterday.

No legal impediment

Earlier, law school deans Pacifico Agabin and Amado Valdez told the hearing that there was no legal impediment to the playing of the tapes.

"In the present case, nothing is more vital to the democratic polity than the issue of who was elected President in the last elections and whether or not the democratic processes had been distorted," said Agabin, former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law and now dean of the Lyceum law school.

"Now that the President has authenticated the tape and admitted that hers is the voice on the tape, it is imperative that the people should get to know what their President had told a member of an independent constitutional commission and what the latter had replied," said Agabin.

Right of people to know

Agabin stressed that the playing of the tape was protected by the "speech and debate clause of the Constitution," and that the right to privacy, although protected by the Constitution, "must be balanced against the right of people to information."

As far as President Arroyo is concerned, Agabin said she had waived her right to privacy because she was the first through her alter ego "to bare to the public of an authentic and altered tape" on June 6.

Valdez, dean of University of the East law school, said the power to investigate was a "very significant congressional power," adding that "a legislative body cannot legislate wisely or effectively in the absence of information respecting the conditions which the legislation is intended to affect or change."

He said Republic Act No. 4200, known as the Anti-Wiretapping Law, was "a mere statute inferior to the provisions of the fundamental law."

But he said the President could object to the admissibility in evidence of the tape only in an impeachment proceeding, not in a congressional inquiry.

No loss of immunity

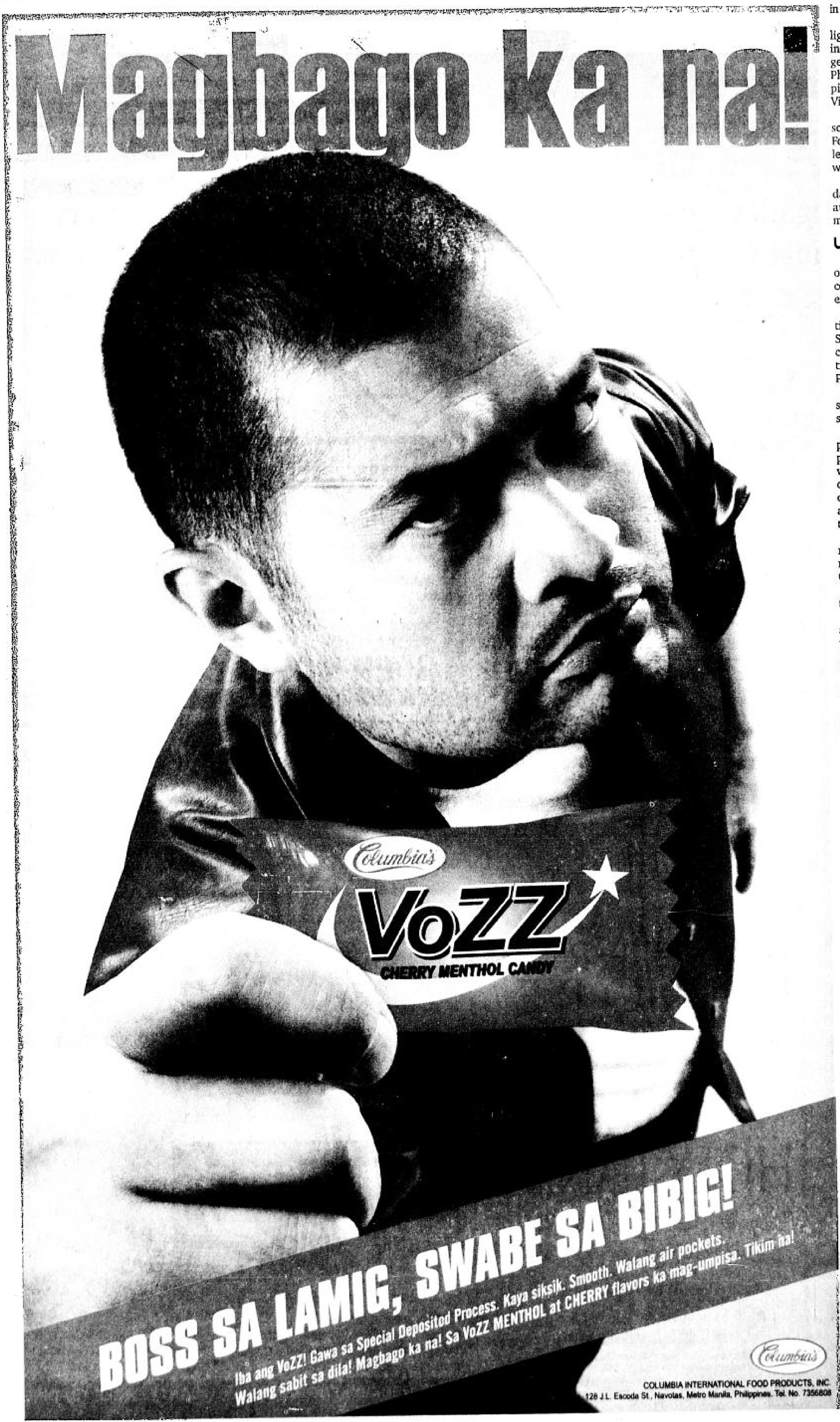
"In the light of the admission of the President that she's one of the parties in the taped conversation and the filing of an impeachment complaint against her, the joint committee must also look into the requirements of the rights of the persons appearing or affected in or affected by the inquiry shall be respected, unless such rights are waived," said Valdez.

"It will be her responsibility to register her objection in order to foreclose the waiver of admissibility of evidence during the hearing of the impeachment complaint. We can play the tape, we can conduct the hearing and that we should not feel insecure about the loss of immunity privileges in the playing of the tape."

Speech clause

Agabin also said the joint committee "may play the wiretapped tape" in public or executive session.

"The speech and debate immunity clause includes utterances and acts of congressmen 'in the official discharge of their duties as members of Congress and of the congressional committees duly authorized to perform its functions at the time of the performance of the acts in question,'" he said.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Palace says no desertions as Golez quits …

From page A1

JOAN BONDOC

GOODBYE to all that: Rep. Roilo Golez quits the administration party and the chair of the House defense committee after he called for the President's resignation.

Malacañang reported that there had been "no mass desertions" from the administration coalition's ranks following Golez's resignation.

"My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins," said Golez, quoting the late President Manuel L. Quezon's famous words.

Golez accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of employing deception to maintain her grip on power despite allegations of poll fraud in the 2004 election.

One of the leading lights of the House inquiry, Golez had suggested that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) had a hand in the wiretapping of Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Golez had also linked to the wiretapping scandal Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, Armed Forces deputy chief for intelligence, for allegedly assigning to Isafp military personnel who had taped Garcillano's calls.

Following Ms Arroyo's admission on Monday that the female voice on the controversial audio tape was hers, Golez fired a scathing remark against her.

Untenable position

"The President did not answer the accusation of electoral fraud in conspiracy with a Comelec commissioner. The deception followed the discovery of the audio tapes," he said.

"The President is now in an untenable position. She cannot anymore lead and govern. She has lost her moral authority, a crucial component in national leadership. Resignation … is the only honorable option for the President," he stressed.

Golez said it was a painful decision, having served Ms Arroyo for three years as national security adviser.

"The attempt to deceive started with the June 6 press conference of the press secretary when he presented two tapes, one supposedly the original where the President was allegedly talking to an ordinary political leader and not a Comelec officer. Subsequently, this was amended to make it appear that perhaps it was not the President in the taped conversations," he said.

He then asked the joint committee to summon anew the President's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, to see if he attempted to deceive Congress and perjured himself.

Golez also said the Arroyo administration has the means to produce the missing Garcillano.

"They must produce Garcillano now. He has a sordid tale … as indicated by the transcripts provided by the press secretary himself. No quest for truth will be complete without the story that only Garcillano can tell," he said.

Senate bid

Asked about the resignation, Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, Kampi leader, said: "I know his decision has something to do with his intent to run for Senate in the future. I wish his candidacy well."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the Parañaque lawmaker's move was simply a repetition of his political history, noting that he abandoned Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada when their administrations were unraveling.

Golez said his departure from Kampi and his sentiments on the raging tape scandal made it "untenable" for him to remain as chair of the powerful committee.

"It's a price that I must pay," said Golez. He said he would "now recede as an ordinary committee member, to continue the quest for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and what is right according to our oath of office."

Pending final action from the plenary which elected him chair of the defense committee, chairpersons of the joint committee led by Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla then designated Rep. Rozzano Rufunio Biazon as acting chair.

Remain apolitical

Also yesterday, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu sent a radio message to area commanders urging them to stay loyal to their Commander-in-Chief but to remain "apolitical."

He called for "sobriety" in view of Ms Arroyo's admission of a "lapse of judgment" and apology on Monday.

"Let us join the President in her call for unity in rebuilding the nation, the doubling of efforts to serve the people, and the implementation of reform," Abu said.

Silent

Abu, whose term was extended until August, has been silent on the alleged involvement of some active generals in election cheating.

Some generals were mentioned in the wiretap.

In a statement yesterday, the AFP said it was bracing itself for new antigovernment mass actions.

"The military, along with the police, will continue to monitor the prevailing security situation as antigovernment groups may step up destabilization efforts anew following the President's admission and public apology," it said.

President ...

From page A1

gated by the House.

Son, in-law to go

Rep. Joey Salceda, one of Ms Arroyo's economic adviser, said the President was still waiting for her lawyers to lay the legal groundwork on how to go about the forced resignation of her son and brother-in-law from Congress.

"They're my friends, but I think they have to go. We need to put some finality to this issue. Let's give in to the people. Since she already admitted to her mistake, then she has to accept the penalty. There has to be penance and penance requires admission, repentance, restitution."

Ms Arroyo blamed her political enemies for deriding her husband, even on his contributions to his pet projects such as health care and sports development, in order to "distract" her from implementing her reform agenda.

"And so he will leave to remove these distractions and doubts from our people's minds," she said. "As with Caesar's wife, my husband has volunteered to remove himself from any situation which will cast doubt on my presidency."

"My family will miss him terribly, and I ask you to help pray that we remain strong as a family," Ms Arroyo told the country's top business leaders gathered at a forum at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

'Very painful'

A few hours after the President disclosed her husband's plan to go abroad, the First Gentleman said his decision to leave was "very painful."

"I love my wife very much," he said, as he admitted difficulty in seeing the Chief Executive suffer through the negative press he had been receiving.

"If there is anything I can do, any sacrifice I can make, to give her peace of mind, I would never hesitate to do it. That is why I have offered to leave. Being away from my wife and my family is a very painful decision."

The President said she mentioned her husband's plan to go away "because I want to signal to everyone that nothing can stop my administration from implementing phase two of our reform agenda."

It was the second time in as many days that the President made a major announcement concerning herself and her family as her scandal-riddled administration struggles to get back to its feet.

On Monday night, Ms Arroyo confessed to the nation that she was the one talking to an election official in a wiretapped phone conversation suggesting fraud in the 2004 polls.

She apologized for that "lapse in judgment" and expressed her desire to move on with the business of governing.

The so-called "Gloria-gate" scandal had spawned protest rallies and calls for her to step down both before and after Ms Arroyo made the apology.

Iggy won't leave

In Bacolod City, Iggy Arroyo does not agree with the decision of his elder brother to leave the country. He said he had no plans of doing the same.

"Politics should not break a family apart. It is a painful sacrifice for a husband, father and grandfather to be separated from his family. No greater love can a man [have] for his wife," he said.

He said he did not know where his brother would go to because he had not talked to him yet. But he said Mike might go to the United States because his brother has always been comfortable there.

The congressman denied reports that the President had asked him to resign in the wake of allegations that he received jueteng payola and of the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue on his tax payments.

Calling the reports "outrageous" and "laughable," he said he would not resign from the House of Representatives because he owed it to his constituents in Negros Occidental's fifth district to stay on and serve them.

"I will not resign or go on leave. I cannot abandon my oath," he told the INQUIRER.

At the First Philippine Business Leaders' Forum, the President sought the support of the business community in her bid to reform the country.

Political noise

She said that she was aware of the concern of the business community on the work achieved by her government being "overshadowed by the political noise, including rumor and innuendo associated with members of my family."

"This has been a subject of considerable pain for me and for members of my family who've been subjected to these charges," she said. "To say that this goes with the territory in politics is easy, but it doesn't stop people from being distracted from the real work required if we are to build a better nation."

Priority is God

In her speech, Ms Arroyo quoted again the advice given to her by her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, on being a public servant, which she said she had stated in a recent Time magazine interview.

"When you're a public servant, the priority is God first, then country, and family is last," she said.

"My responsibility to the people is my highest priority," she said.

The President said her family knew that they should be "self-effacing" because the presidency was a "position of greatest responsibility necessitating personal sacrifice and not a fount of privilege or special favors."

She said that when she came into power in 2001, her first administrative order was to prohibit government agencies from dealing with her family on matters of appointments, contacts and supplies. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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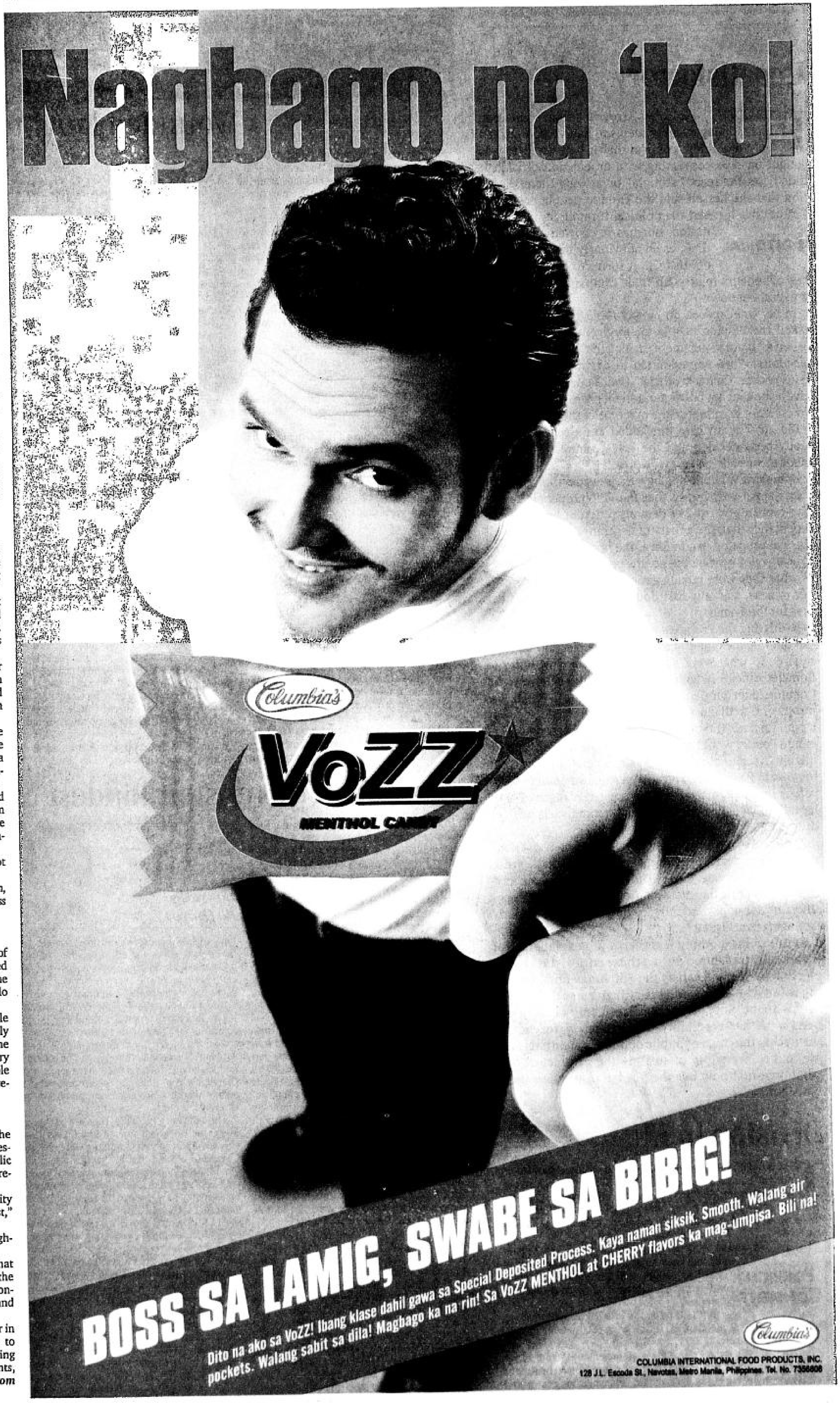

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Unsatisfactory

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's public confession last Monday evening seems to have accomplished only one thing: confirm that it was she who was caught on tape conversing with an election official. It didn't "set the record straight" or provide the explanation that she herself said the Filipino people deserved. Neither has it eased the political turmoil engulfing the nation, nor has it allowed her to buy time, as she obviously hoped it would do. Instead, it seems to have provoked her opponents to step up their campaign to bring her government down.

In her brief speech on national television, Ms Arroyo asked the Filipino people for forgiveness for what she called a " lapse in judgment" during the 2004 presidential elections. While she admitted to having had conversations with a "Comelec official" (whose name she did not give), she said her only intention then was "to protect my votes ... not to influence the outcome of the election, and it did not." In any case, she added, the election had "already been decided and the votes counted" when she made those calls.

In making a public apology, the President and her advisers apparently hoped that the Filipino people would give more weight to her demonstration of humility and repentance than the gravity of her transgressions. But all she was prepared to admit was the impropriety of talking to an election official, but not the possibly criminal nature of what they were talking about. By trying to gloss over her offense, she only cast doubt on the sincerity of her plea for forgiveness.

To this day, the President and her spokesmen insist that she did not cheat and that she won the election fair and square. So what were all those conversations with the Comelec official (whom most people now believe to be Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano) all about? When, for instance, Garcillano assured her that he would see to it ("*pipilitin natin*") that her lead over her closest rival, Fernando Poe Jr., would not be less than one million, was he merely trying to humor her? Again, when Garcillano told her that in Basilan and Davao, "*ang ginawa nilang pagpapataas sa inyo ... maayos naman ang pagkakagawa*," was he talking of a growth hormone or some such wonder drug?

There are scores of questions about those conversations that demand clear, unequivocal answers, which the President did not provide. Can the administration blame anyone for accepting the interpretations offered by the opposition or for independently coming up with similarly damaging conclusions?

At this point, nothing less than a full explanation of what really transpired during those critical days of the election period will satisfy the Filipino people, including those who are inclined to still give her the benefit of the doubt. Support for the President is eroding as quickly as her credibility. Unfortunately for her, it seems that the court of public opinion is about ready to pronounce her guilty of stealing the presidency. The administration now has the burden of proving she is innocent.

Division in EU

FOREIGN COMMENT

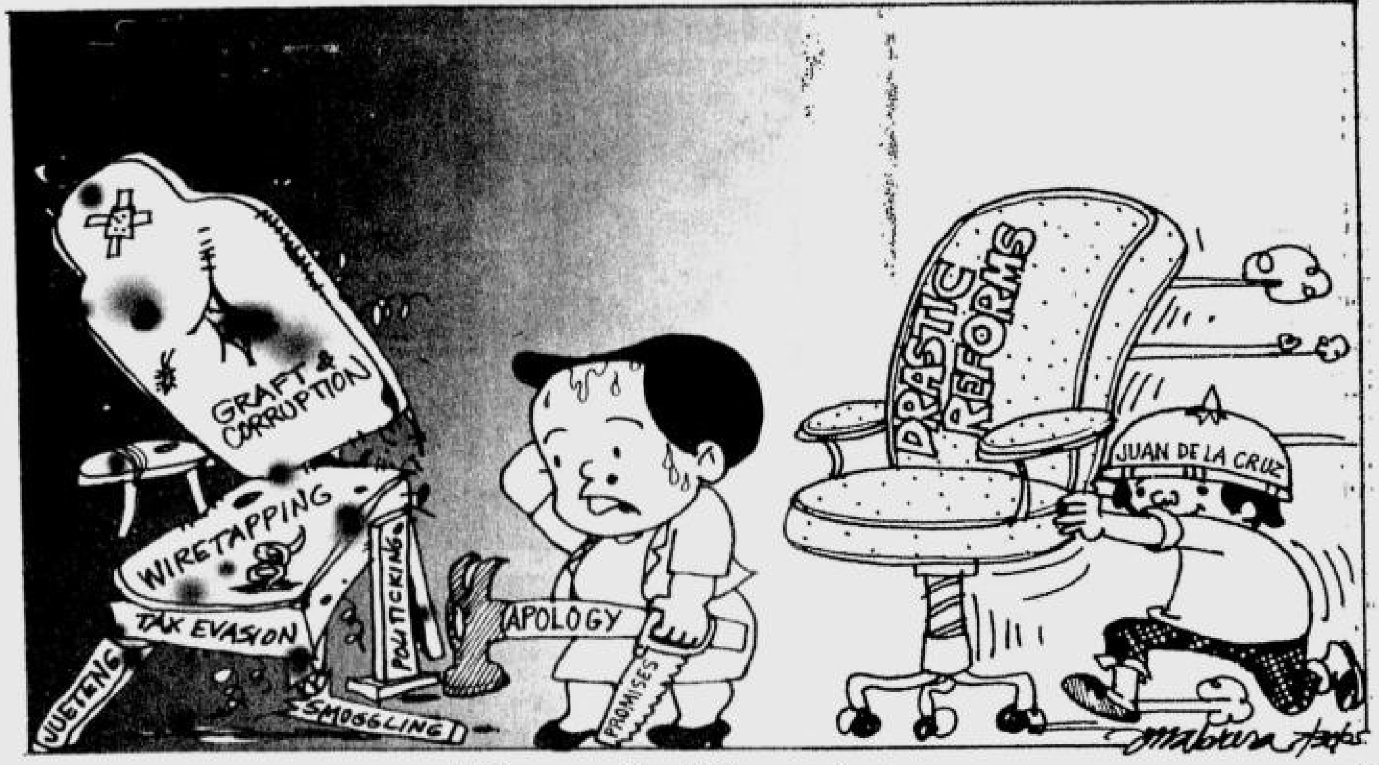
THE SUMMIT meeting of European Union leaders was held under difficult circumstances after French and Dutch voters rejected the proposed EU constitution. However, the summit talks did not overcome the imminent political crisis, but rather further exposed an internal rift among members of the enlarged 25-nation bloc.

The EU has been able to maintain a strong influence over the international community because it has steadily enlarged its membership and enhanced political and economic integration among member states.

If it fails to fix the internal disunity that surfaced at the summit meeting, EU influence in international politics will certainly decline.

Britain will inherit the EU presidency for six months from July. If the new EU president fails to find solutions to unresolved but important issues, including the budget, the EU can expect long-term stagnation.

Yomiuri Shimbun (Tokyo)



Wounded laughter

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"I MAKE myself laugh at everything, so I do not weep," so goes the song the "Barber of Seville." That explains those jokes Filipinos whip up and send—yesterday through "tele-woman," and today in "Garci" ring tones.

The Arroyo administration is swamped with jests, as the Marcos and Estrada regimes were. "The tapes are authentic," crackles a text message. "It's Gloria who is fake." There's the Comelec official who dials the cops to report a break-in. "All the results of the next elections were stolen," he wails.

"In this country, the world (of bad leaders) does not end with a bang, it ends with jokes," writes the INQUIRER's Conrad de Quiros.

Hindi ka nag-iisa, Ate. Jokes are acts of defiance against despots the world over, say Steven Lukes of Baliol College, at Oxford, and Hebrew University's Itzhak Galnoor in their book "No Laughing Matter." (Their title takes off from Mark Twain's wisecrack: "A German joke is no laughing matter.")

In front of Imelda's Film Center, a man pukes. "*Pare*, I share your opinion," a passerby whispers. As the psychotic "Cultural Revolution" tapered off, Chinese students would yell: "Down with the Gang of Four" while lifting up five fingers. The fifth referred to Mao Zedong.

Telling a gag against Big Brother is a "little revolution," asserts George Orwell. His books—"1984" and "Animal Farm"—were probably the most chilling allegories of dictatorship written after the 1950s.

Laughter at autocrats' expense drives a nail into their coffins. Togo and Pogo poked fun, through the stage, at World War II Japanese occupiers. The Kempetai padlocked their show.

Jokes then were swapped through word of mouth or the tele-woman. "Laughter is the most potent weapon of the powerless in this country," De Quiros observes.

That's true of other countries, too. In Beijing Agricultural University, I swapped Marcos jokes with "Gang of Four" wisecracks from professors who survived the purges.

"The student declared that Mao's 'Little Red Book' resulted in rice harvests that reached God's feet," an agricultural economist recounted. But the party official protested: "Our Glorious Helmsman says there's no such thing as God." Retorted the student: "Well, there's no harvest either."

Denied the privilege of voting, these scientists lapped up the one about Marcos' snap polls. "The opposition won 61 percent of the votes," yelled the reporter. "*Talaga* (Really)? That's a landslide," his listeners shouted back. "You don't understand. The administration won by 83 percent."

Cracking such jokes was lumped as "rumormongering." You could be detained for that. The unlucky ones landed in torture chambers, like the Military Intelligence Security Group—where Panfilo Lacson was a rising star.

The late Jaime Cardinal Sin wielded pointed humor. Returning from the Rome meet that chose John Paul II as pontiff, he told Marcos' Comelec officials: "If you were in charge of the conclave, I'd have been elected Pope"—followed by laughter.

Fax, e-mail and cell phones were then a decade away. So, people furtively circulated items, like Sin jokes, on mimeo sheets. Under Letter of Implementation No. 12, then Minister Francisco Tatad ordered registration of mimeo machines.

In his essay "The Power of Laughter," Jose Javier Reyes asserts humor here is more than a survival kit. Filipinos use humor to diffuse tension, circumvent taboos—and for sheer enjoyment.

Humor is also used as a "leveler." It exposes the "foibles of people in high office, thus bringing them down to the company of ordinary men."

Thus, the intrusion and corruption of the military were skewered. "How much is two plus two?" asks Gen. Fabian Ver of the colonel seeking promotion. "Four, sir." Wrong. And 20 other colonels flubbed that question.

"The correct answer," a young major responds, "is two for you, sir, and two for me." Ver beams: "Excellent, colonel. Now, the President will interview you."

"Answer the question colonel," Marcos orders. "Two plus two equals four—and all for you, sir," he answers. "Raise your right hand, general."

Apparently, political jokes tend to wither when freedom allows them into the open. You could crack jokes against Presidents Corazon Aquino or Fidel Ramos without going to jail. In Poland, gags dried up when the Solidarity union ushered in free government. But pranks reemerged when Soviet-backed Josef Jaruzelski clamped down on the country with martial law.

After the martial law years, succeeding regimes in the Philippines have since allowed freedom of expression. They have no choice. People have written that into the basic law. The Arroyo administration has to grit its teeth over today's jests. "The best is yet to come." It can console itself that they serve as a safety valve.

The inept opposition, meanwhile, is skewered by japes. Former Gen. Fortunato Abat, who proposes a junta to save the country, gave this interview. "When the junta is established, everybody will have *bangus* (milkfish) on their tables." A citizen replies: "I don't like bangus." Abat snorts: "When the junta is in power, you will like bangus."

Estrada never thought in policy terms. So, the joke went: Japanese cars were distributed for idiocy. "The dumb one got a Toyota. The dumber received a Mazda. And the dumbest got a Strada." By the time he was booted out from Malacañang, the gags were on his concubines and assorted flaws.

Jokes "represent a collective intimacy, a sign that people belong and, consequently, that they entertain hope," Lukes and Galnoor note. "The time to worry is when the jokes stop." Watch for that in the brawls ahead.

* * *

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The most unkindest cut of all

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TRULY, this country has no end of monumental ironies to offer. Last Tuesday I saw a most astounding sight. Two people who had lost a presidential election before and had railed bitterly at the cheating done to them were now defending, or ignoring, a breathtaking case of it with breathtaking ease. Those two were Corazon Aquino and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Well, I wasn't completely astounded that Miriam did so. That is one person God gave a head, if a much unhinged one, but not a heart. That is one person who has developed a capacity to quote law but not to glimpse justice. She it was who also defended Erap to high heavens during his impeachment trial, using her lawyerly skills and apparently constitutional expertise to hide the truth rather than burnish it. No, I am not surprised that she should now reprise the same role with much the same passion in much the same circumstances. With probably much the same results, which is only to see her patron ousted by an angry populace.

Miriam was telling ANC that she saw nothing insidious in the drift of GMA's conversation with Virgilio Garcillano. She singled out the part where the President was telling Garcillano that Rodolfo Biazon was threatening to expose fraud in Tawi-Tawi and elsewhere and was asking if it would affect her adversely ("*baka madale ako*"). What's wrong with that? Miriam asked. All that showed was that GMA was anxious that none of the intramurals below would affect her.

Now, assuming there is nothing criminal in the simple fact that GMA was having a conversation with a Comelec official about election results during the actual counting—and you would imagine a constitutional expert would know better—had Miriam gone on to read further, she would have come to the point where GMA expressly tells Garcillano: "*Hindi kaya pwedeng ma-delay yung* senatorial canvassing... (Can't we delay the senatorial canvassing)?" I mean, Ma'am, that is not directly interfering with Comelec work?

Indeed, had Miriam gone on to read further, she would have come to the part where Garcillano says: "*Dun naman sa Basilan at Lanao Sur, ito ho yung ginawa nilang magpataas sa inyo, maayos naman ang paggawa e....Sa Basilan, alam nyo naman ang mga military dun eh, hindi masyadong marunong kasi silang gumawa e.*" I cannot imagine that it is merely Miriam's being an Ilonggo that makes her fail to grasp the atrocious meaning of that statement. That is something by the way Franklin Drilon shares with her: He too is an Ilonggo, and he too finds nothing wrong with GMA's exchanges with Garcillano. Poor Ilonggos, to be represented by people whose powers of comprehension are severely limited.

Though I am a Bicolano, I can at least assure them that by "*magpataas sa inyo,*" Garcillano was not talking about increasing GMA's height. I can assure them that by "*yung military dun hindi masyadong marunong gumawa,*" Garcillano was not talking of a military contingent not knowing how to make the right kind of elevator shoes to make GMA look tall.

As I said before, the hardest person to wake up is the one who is pretending to be asleep. The hardest lawyer to convince to see the truth is the one who is determined to prove the lie. But that Miriam should claim to have been cheated by Fidel Ramos during the 1992 elections and shout her head off for years over it with no more proof than her say-so and now deny cheating when hearing the words straight from the horse's mouth, not entirely figuratively—well, they call her "Brenda."

But Cory is the real disappointment. She didn't exactly defend GMA but she did ask us to just resort to prayer and move on. Didn't Cory protest bitterly that she was cheated blind by Marcos in the "snap elections" in nearly exactly the same circumstances? Marcos refused to step down as president to run on an even field, GMA refused to step down as president to run on an even field, the latter notwithstanding the Constitution's ban on an incumbent running, which was tacit in provision for a president holding only a single term. Marcos owned Leonie Perez, GMA owned Benjie Abalos, or as turns out now to be the real power in the Comelec, Virgie Garcillano. Marcos unleashed guns, goons and gold in that order, GMA unleashed gold, goons and guns in that order. Marcos rigged the counting, which led to principled Comelec people staging a walkout. GMA rigged the counting, which led to—well, Cory saying let's pray for those who sinned and get on with our lives.

How can any life go on that is weighed down by injustice? When Ninoy was gunned down on the tarmac by soldiers shouting "*Pusila! Pusila!*" did we say let's forgive and forget, the dead can't be brought back to life, life has to go on? No, we said, "*Hindi ka nagiisa,*" your death is the death of all of us, finding justice for you is resurrecting all of us. No, we said, "*Tama na, sobra na, palitan na,*" we've had enough of corruption and rottenness and indecency, it's time we stopped it, life cannot go on with it. Is there any difference between the murder of a man and the murder of a nation? Is it viler to gun down a man while he walks in the sun than to strangle the nation while it sleeps in the night?

The equation is never, "first the economy, then justice." It is always, "first justice, then the economy." At the very least that is so because you can never have economic progress with crooks. The people who are messing up the economy are not those who are protesting the iniquity, they are those who are ruling iniquitously. At the very most that is so because before you can eat, you have to breathe. Justice is the air we breathe.

But that the symbol of the struggle for justice should now urge us to just struggle to subsist—that is the most unkindest cut of all.

S & P: Public giving GMA benefit of doubt

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's statement on the tape issue must have been among the most heard and awaited in the country's history. It brought me back a bit to the 1978 elections, at the height of martial law, when the country virtually stood still just to listen to Ninoy Aquino broadcast his brief appeal from prison.

Twenty-four days have passed since the tape issue first surfaced. Pressure, even from her allies, has been mounting on the President to break her silence on the controversy. When she finally appeared on TV last Monday evening, the pressure of those weeks was written all over her face.

* * *

At the Palace, the mood was very emotional, set by the "serenade" from the Palace people. When she spoke, many of them were visibly tearful, among them Ninoy's kid sister, Lupita Kashiwahara, who helps GMA with communications. That Filipinos are always for the underdog cannot be denied, and over the weeks, as the opposition lashed at her, the pint-sized chief executive began to look more and more like the underdog. Her painful move to banish her husband Mike A. from the country and the impending resignation of Mikey from the House could unleash a torrent of sympathy the opposition has failed to reckon with.

* * *

Many ordinary citizens, especially in the middle class, seem touched that—as Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Juan Flavier put it—it took a lot of courage and humility on the part of the highest official to make that "true confession." As retired accountant Nilo Cachupero of Bacolod texted this columnist: "Please tell PGMA to go on as president till her term ends. I salute her courage and wish her wisdom as she continues to lead."

At this point many people seem willing to give her a second chance for two good reasons. One is that many of them don't think her call to the Comelec official violated the law. Standard & Poor's rating agency seems to have read the public pulse. It noted that the public is giving GMA "the benefit of the doubt that her action does not constitute legal wrongdoing, and that the tape does not prove the more serious accusation of trying to influence the vote count." But it also warned that foreign investors are still on a wait-and-see mode and all those street demos are spooking them.

Secondly, many people perceive that GMA has the best chance of moving the economy forward. Far from being "outraged" by the tapes, they are more worried about the rising prices of oil and basic commodities, the growing joblessness and how to educate their kids properly. They want the government to do something about these problems, but they also don't feel that the opposition has a better alternative to GMA.

* * *

The opposition is not mollified by GMA's apology and has organized a big rally today, to be led by the Jesus is Lord Movement of Eddie Villanueva and the leftist militants. The Left's agenda is predictable: it will always be against the establishment. But those who lost in the last elections—Villanueva, Raul Roco and Panfilo Lacson—are harping on a snap election. Is it because they all want to run again for president? Or will it be Susan Roces as hinted yesterday? House minority leader Rep. Francis Escudero is calling for impeachment, but I think the opposition realizes that this move may be a pipe dream since GMA's allies control the House. As an administration senator emphasized to me, an impeachment move won't prosper because it would already be killed at the committee level. Moreover, the opposition's plan may have been stymied by a "defective" impeachment resolution filed by Marcos lawyer Oliver Lozano, which was endorsed by an administration-friendly party-list congressman. Under the House rules, no two impeachment resolutions against the same person can be filed within a given year. The opposition's only recourse is to take the battle to the streets.

* * *

The business community has come to GMA's defense, citing the need to unite and move the country forward. PCCI president Donald Dee said the people are willing to give GMA the "space" to make amends. Consumer Watch chair Raul Concepcion has gone one step further: his group wants a six-month "probation" period for GMA, during which they want to see "drastic and dramatic reforms" that should serve as her "penance." Fair enough. Clearly, even the ordinary people want the President to make amends—as the other side of the "confession" process—in the form of drastic reforms especially against corruption and the perceived excesses of her relatives. Fr. Robert Reyes, a GMA critic, was quoted as saying he does not want her to step down. Neither is he calling for a snap election as he does not trust the Comelec. Reyes instead suggested emphatically that, as a form of restitution, GMA set in motion a "transition stage to good governance." All of us want good governance.

* * *

There seems to be no end to the bag of surprises from former Senate President Jovito Salonga. Tomorrow at 4 p.m., at the Lyceum University's Jose P. Laurel Hall of Freedom, he will launch his latest book titled "The Task of Building a Better Nation." Guest speakers are Justice Artemio Panganiban, Salonga's longtime disciple, and UP Prof. Randy David. No topic could be timelier than the task of building a "better nation." Judging from the blurbs coming from among the most distinguished minds in the nation today, it's a must-read and must-have book. For instance, Sen. Joker Arroyo, who will deliver the opening remarks tomorrow, says this book "bears the same solid scholarship, towering intelligence and elegant expression" as the other works of this "last true titan of 20th century Philippines." Chief Justice Hilario Davide toasts Salonga as "our living flame, pure of soul, strong and fearless of controversy." Orchids to Ka Jovy. May you continue to guide the country you and all of us love dearly.

1000 women for 2005 Nobel Peace Prize (1)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

YESTERDAY the names of the 1,000 women collectively nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize were announced simultaneously in different parts of the world. Twenty seven—repeat, 27—of these women nominees are from the Philippines.

The nomination was submitted to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Oslo, Norway, in January 2005. In October, we will know if these 1,000 women will collectively be named as this year's winner of the Peace Prize which is often considered the plum of the Nobel awards. For sure there are other nominees (individuals, pairs or groups) in the peace category. The so-called "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize" is just one of them.

Behind this unprecedented global search for 1,000 nominees was the Association 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005. The key words here are "women," "peace" and "1,000".

The Association of 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005 was begun in 2003 on the conviction that the commitment of women working for peace should be acknowledged and publicized. It started as a Swiss initiative but interest spread worldwide, thanks to the energy of coordinators and volunteers around the world who identified and documented the peace work of women in their regions. The project has the support of Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheline Calmy Rey, Unifem, UNDP and Unesco Switzerland.

The Nobel Peace Prize is not always free from controversy but a Nobel is a Nobel. Other fields like science, literature and economics will also have their nominees and winners. It is not rare that a category would have a couple of winners, but 1,000? And all women at that.

Who are they, where are they, what are they doing? (You can read their short biographies in www.1000peacewomen.org.)

The nominated women were picked on the basis of their active commitment to the cause of peace and justice, often under the most difficult circumstances. The association describes them thus:

"They call for reconciliation and organize peace talks, they rebuilt what has been destroyed in villages and cities, they fight against poverty and create new sources of income. They struggle for access to clean water, land and other resources. They care for those infected with HIV and give war orphans a home. They denounce violations of human rights and publicly condemn all forms of torture. They hold silent protests in public places and seek solutions to all forms of aggression.

"They work mainly in their own villages and regions, but many women are also in institutes and universities. Some of them are members of governments or are active in the international scene. The criteria for each nomination were, among others, sustainability, integrity, long-term engagement, the inclusion of all parties to conflict and a wide network. The 1,000 women are experts in their fields of work, they are beacons of hope for their local people, they are informed, demanding, and not accommodating!"

There, I quoted even the exclamation point. I hope the "not" in "not accommodating" is not a typo. Uncompromising sounds better.

Regardless of whether the "1000 Women" win the Peace Nobel or not, these women's lives will not go unnoticed. A book on them will be out at the end of 2005. Written by hundreds of journalists around the world, these women's mini biographies will serve as inspiration and reference for women, peace advocates, institutions and governments. A traveling exhibit will complement the book.

They come from 153 countries. The 1000 Women actually are 999 in real number. Reserve one for the unknown, undiscovered and those who have passed on.

I went over the list and picked out the countries with 10 or more nominees. India-91, China-81, Brazil-52, USA-40, Russian Federation-35, Pakistan-29, Philippines-27, Indonesia-23, China-Taiwan-18, Bangladesh-16, Sudan-16, Germany-15, Mali-15, South Africa-14, Colombia-12, Mexico-12, Sri Lanka-12, Thailand-12, Vietnam-12, Afghanistan-11, Burundi-10, Ukraine-10, UK-10, Uzbekistan-10.

Here are the names of the 27 Filipino women. Ma. Lorenza "Binky" Dalupan-Palm, Cecil Guidote-Alvarez, Miriam "Dedet" L. Suacito, Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Adoracion "Dory" C. Avisado, Delia Ediltrudes "Duds" Santiago-Locsin, Eliza G. del Puerto, Hadja Bainon Guiabar Karon, Haydee Yorac, Irene Morada Santiago, June Caridad Pagaduan-Lopez, Loreta Navarro-Castro, Sister Mariani Dimaranan SFIC, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Mary Lou L. Alcid, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Myla Jabilles Leguro, Piang T. Albar, Pura Sumangil, Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel, Seiko Bodios Ohashi, Sister Mary Soledad Perpinan RGS, Teresa Banaynal Fernandez, Teresita "Tessy" Ang-See, Teresita "Ging" Quinto-Deles, Zenaida Brigida "Manang Briggs" Hamada-Pawid, Zenaida "Zeny" Tan Lim.

I am not surprised to see a big harvest of women peace advocates from countries with chronic peace problems. And the bigger the population the more nominees. Surprisingly, Norway, the Nobel's homeland, has only one woman in the 1000 Women list. Ireland has none. Why? The Occupied Palestinian Territory has 8, Israel also has 8. Mongolia has 9. Bosnia-Herzegonia has 7. Croatia has 6. Laos has 7. East Timor has 3.

It's interesting how all these women, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, find common ground in their work for peace. Some of them come from warring nations.

The world is so much better because of them. Hearken and heed.

(Next week: What the 27 Filipino nominees say.)

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Redemption

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TIME and again, Susan Roces has proven herself prudent and wise, with the interests of the country truly in her mind and heart. She has shown her unswerving devotion to peace, order, property and propriety. She has earned the people's trust in equal measure by which the President has lost it. She spoke yesterday for all Filipinos, rich and poor because we all have only one vote. And because we have a birthright from our heroes and ancestors—the right to freely and fairly select our leaders.

The President must resign. Now.

President Macapagal-Arroyo must resign because she has fatally divided her people. She has removed every reason for the people to give her the benefit of the doubt. She has betrayed her supporters, those who worked and voted for her in the belief she would be more Macapagal than Marcos, a conscientious steward and reformer instead of an opportunist and schemer.

She has pushed away those who opposed her but were willing to abide with the people's mandate. She has demonstrated that her rule was achieved in a manner that no one—supportive of her, neutral or against her—can accept or defend.

There are times when partisan politics, class interests, our separate and separating opinions, must cease; and when we have to decide who we are for. Do we believe that we must come together; that we can work together and not against each other? Do we believe the poor and uneducated have an equal stake with their so-called social and economic betters? Do we still believe in majority rule? That there is a collective wisdom that can arise from mass action?

Not only our President, our Congress and all our institutions have been found wanting. The churches have been over-prudent; and business and civil society have been paralyzed by fears arising from a profound, and shameful, distrust of the people we are all supposed to serve.

So those of us who are not in the opposition, who are not from the masses, must answer the challenge of our countrymen. We must add our voices to those asking for the most basic, and truest, things: accountability from our highest officials, our commitment to a country based on ideals, not on a cynical fear of our countrymen.

So: the President must resign. She must resign now.

And we must accept that resignation, fearlessly. This is a referendum on our faith in our country and our people. Somehow—we don't know how, though we can assume it won't be easy—a national consensus can, and will, arise. I do not know where this will lead: the assumption of Vice President Noli de Castro to the presidency, or a more far-reaching change in the system? But we have to be for change, or against change.

I know this: with all that has transpired over the past few weeks, anything is better than what we have now.

What will happen? Does this mean those with education, with something to lose, either by virtue of property or position, stand to be marginalized? To fear this is to assume people like Susan Roces have nothing to lose, and that she has neither property nor position. She has everything to lose, just as we all have everything to lose; but she would rather gain everything: the honor of our country, a newfound pride in and among our people, than settle for equivocation and half-apologies and half-gestures that presume the public clamor deserves merely a calibrated, political, response.

It doesn't matter if the supporters of Fernando Poe Jr. will be skeptical about what those who don't belong to their ranks say now. The burden is on our middle class, our political class, our business class, and our professional and intellectual circles. We are all in this together, whether one bases it on the official numbers or not. The 36.5 percent (or more) who voted for FPJ in 2004; the 23-24 percent who voted neither for FPJ or GMA; we, in the supposed 40 percent who voted for GMA, but whom she has betrayed as no president has betrayed her people in a time of supposed democratic rule. We are those who cast negative votes—the 60 percent who voted against GMA, the 63.5 percent who voted against FPJ, the 76-77 percent who voted against Lacson, Roco, and Villanueva. In other words, whichever way you divide it, this is a question for the majority, to be decided by the majority.

Do I fear an Estrada restoration? I trust that if Edsa I and II meant anything, that will never happen; but even so, I fear an Arroyo continuation even more. Do I hope Cory Aquino will speak up? Fervently; though if she does not, I will not wait. I do think that were the two widows to join hands, then nothing will be impossible for this country, including a profound cleansing of a system that we have tried to patch up but which continues to fail us all, poor, rich, conservative, liberal and radical.

We must come together, we must arrive at a consensus, we must be willing to take a great historical gamble: there are more things that unite us, than divide us. That we will not be ruled by uncertainty, equivocation, or fear, but rather by trust in ourselves. In each other.

Because this is about trust. Trust that the President has lost. Trust that Susan Roces has issued a clarion call for all Filipinos to regain. I trust her. She has proven her being worthy of that trust. I hope we can all prove to her that her trust in us all is not misplaced. Susan Roces has called for the process of coming up with a national consensus to begin with. Let's all do our part to help.

There was a time when we could think Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the reflection of what we wanted to see in our leadership, in our country. These three weeks have dispelled any such illusion. What I see in Susan Roces is the country I want to see, a country which all of us can be proud of.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Catharsis

YOUNG BLOOD

Dash

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HOPE to achieve catharsis after this so that I can move on.

I did not make it in the 2004 bar exams. Thirty-one percent of the examinees passed and I'm counted among the grieving 69 percent who did not make it. No words can describe the pain I felt that day when I heard the news. It felt like all that I had worked for, everything I had dreamed of, every single waking reality which had motivated me to struggle in the past 20 years had all gone for naught.

When I was 8 years old and other kids my age were busy distinguishing between the color silver and gold in the childhood game "Touch the Color," I colored my world with the dream of becoming a lawyer. Yes, at age 8, I knew what I wanted: to be a lawyer.

From elementary to high school, I fed my mind with classical novels, criminal-investigation literature and all such seemingly grown-up and "boring" stuff. I meticulously took down notes and organized my things. I filed and classified everything that I learned. I kept journals and painstakingly improved my handwriting. I wanted to build step by step a solid foundation for a great legal career.

In college, I took up Political Science at the University of the Philippines. I joined various campus organizations and was very active in extracurricular activities. My undergraduate grades would reveal that I could have graduated cum laude, except that I did not graduate on time because of an academic scuffle with my Economics teacher. I rose above that experience and merited a grade of 1.25 the second time I took the subject—under the same teacher.

I worked for almost two years to save money for my law studies. When I felt that it was the right time to start making my plan real, I applied for law school. I could have been a full-time student and studied passionately, but I felt that I had to work to help my parents who were supporting my sister's college education. I worked and studied at the same time. I may not have earned an A+ standing, but I certainly managed to balance well my work and my studies.

When I was in third year, the second blow came. A professor, who has since been appointed justice of the Court of Appeals, gave me a failing mark in one subject. When I requested for a recomputation of my grade, the professor humbly admitted that he had committed an error. But then, the dean of our law school adamantly refused to allow a change of grades, arguing that doing so would open the floodgates to similar changes. A ludicrous argument indeed, because the merits of my case were not like that of anybody else's. It left me wondering if our dean believed that our legal system should continue to provide for appeals and reviews since these would open the floodgates to further appeals and petitions for review. Thus, for the second time in my exciting academic career, I did not graduate on time.

After graduating, I worked for a while and then reviewed for the bar. I can say that I reviewed hard for the exams. I even seemed to enjoy the long hours spent in studying, knowing fully well that each backbreaking minute was leading me one step closer to my dream.

The third and biggest blow was delivered to me in a text message: I did not make it in the 2004 bar exams.

The pain was excruciating because it was unexpected. The pain pierced deep into the innermost recesses of my mind. And what made it worse was seeing the names of those who were not exactly very honest during the examinations among those who passed, and this realization eroded the very foundation of my faith in justice and fairness.

I thought before that the bar was the great leveler, an equalizer in an imperfect academic environment. I do not think so now. The bar to me is one deep plunge into uncertainty that does not necessarily gauge a person's mental ability or fitness to become a lawyer. Passing the bar is redemption and vindication to some who really worked hard for it, but it is an even greater test to those have not seriously toiled to prepare for it. For the likes of me who studied seriously but did not make the grade, it is God's loving nudge and silent push toward deeper reflection.

The real test and the great leveler, I suppose, is the legal practice that awaits anyone who dreams of becoming a lawyer. Passing the bar is one thing but having a meaningful and noble legal career is entirely another thing.

It has been a great source of consolation and indeed it has been gratifying to feel the unstinting support of my family and friends. I think that having a family that constantly stands by me through the various blows I have suffered in my life and having friends who have never doubted my capabilities are enough blessing to offset the pain that I feel over not passing the bar exams.

I can always take the bar exams again. To others who failed the exams the experience might have been bitter and traumatic, but for me, my dream of becoming a lawyer is too beautiful and grand to ever look at any part of the journey that way.

Dash, 28, believes that this phase in her life, like everything else, will pass.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Not wanted

"A Church that keeps quiet when things are wrong, when social issues are serious, when human rights are under siege, when people are starving, when the poor are being taxed more... when freedom of speech is being curtailed, and when the truth is being covered—I don't want that Church. You can have it."

—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, recognizing the separation of Church and State, but saying that the Church should not hold back when the situation calls for the guidance and concrete participation of the Church

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Two programs for GMA's survival

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has to be much more proactive and creative if she wants to survive until the end of her term. She needs bold programs that can spell a huge difference for our country. I see two programs that can turn the tide and save the Philippines from poverty:

1. Energy—Formulate policies to make the country less dependent on foreign oil. Ever since Cory Aquino's administration, we have neglected developing renewable power resources. We should encourage the development of renewable power resources and more exploration for oil and gas.

Public outrage against power utilities is misplaced; it leads us to the wrong conclusion. It is sourcing energy itself that drives up energy prices. And we import most of our energy sources. A coherent energy policy, aimed at developing indigenous sources of energy, is key to maintaining stable prices. Our lawmakers should focus on policies that create local sources of energy instead of grandstanding against expensive fuel and power.

2. Debt relief—Now that the G-8 countries seem to have found a soft spot for debt relief and condonation, we should undertake bold moves for debt relief. Debt relief seems to be in vogue, and we should strike while the iron is hot. If the G-8 could condone $50 billion of Iraqi debt and $50 billion of African debt, why could they not condone even part of our external debt?

Argentina was recently able to restructure its massive external debt and got a condonation of sorts when its sovereign bonds became redeemable at 30 cents to the dollar. With that move alone, 70 percent of Argentina's debt in bonds was wiped out. And when some private bond-holders sued, Argentina's decision to pay a deep discount for its sovereign bonds was upheld by US courts.

If 70 percent of our sovereign debt were absolved, that would be a huge burden off our back. Debt relief would free up a large part of our budget. Instead of huge amounts going into debt servicing, we can use the money for capital expenditures and public works.

President Arroyo should make capital of her goodwill with the G-8 in order to state her case. That would take a lot of chutzpah and leadership, but desperate times call for desperate measures. Ms Arroyo and her allies in Congress have to make bold decisions to save our country. No less than Nelson Mandela, rock star Bono and President Bush himself have spoken out for debt relief. By taking debt relief by the horns, Ms Arroyo will not only find redemption, she will lead us all to salvation.

I mention only these two programs because I believe that, if vigorously pursued, they could return large dividends in a relatively short time. And they could make the Philippines less vulnerable to unpredictable swings of interest rates and energy prices. With more development and more stable energy prices, I am sure there will be less focus on *jueteng* or other petty issues.

—JUAN DEIPARINE,
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A nation under the yoke of clerics

JOSE Rizal was shot in 1896, but after over 100 years the country is still ruled by clerics. Mexico, Spain, France and Italy (Catholic countries all) have managed to throw off the yoke of the Church and have zealously guarded their governments against all attempts by clerics to interfere in state matters.

Yet in the Philippines, we have a daily dose of priests, bishops and even nuns and seminarians, preaching with pomposity or with condescension on how government should manage its affairs and what government policies ought to be.

Hiding behind their cassocks and claiming to speak in furtherance of a self-serving pastoral mission, these clerics, who hold neither elective nor appointive office, would impose their vision of administration on those whom the people have elected. Since these priests and bishops seem to have an opinion on everything, then perhaps they should run for mayor, governor, congressman, senator and even for president. If they win, then that is the only time they should seek to preach and dictate, give refuge to subversives and fugitives from justice, engage in demagoguery, and let's face it—seek the power over state affairs, which they now so persistently and actively seek while hiding behind their religious robes. It seems that Spain's most lasting legacy in the Philippines has been a continuing subservience of a population cowed by friars and clerics.

And these friars and clerics pay no real estate taxes, no value added tax on what they sell, no income tax on their Sunday collections. They consider themselves beyond the reach of ordinary men's libel laws, they foment disorder and civil disobedience and then jump up and pray for peace and think they have done a good thing.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam (For the greater glory of God)!

—HADRIAN V. ARROYO,
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Pasay City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

How to right a wrong

WE must definitely know the truth behind that allegedly illegally acquired taped conversations.

I was in Edsa 1986, along Ortigas Avenue. An APC was in front of me. Nothing really heroic, for my girlfriend (now my wife) just pulled me toward that historic mass action. We anchored ourselves behind some nuns. Oh, how I sweated it out. I think we were fighting for our freedom; I believe we were also fighting for personal privacy, a corollary to freedom.

It is difficult being cheated at. It makes the blood boil. But isn't it that a wrongdoing cannot be corrected by another wrongdoing? Election fraud is one big issue. However, I think that we should not entertain this illegal wiretapped evidence, not even bother with its authenticity. Nonetheless, saying that the controversial tape of the allegedly wiretapped conversations is authentic, then admitting that it was obtained by illegal means, might be the only way to make it credible to the public, but not to the courts. Or perhaps, I've been watching too many sci-fi movies showing those fascinating gadgets, such as voice simulators.

These partisan politicians have put this country of ours into a more-than-sorry situation. Or are we to espouse the political standpoint, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend"?

If Dr. Jose Rizal were alive today, he would have written a *telenovela* regarding the state of the nation. I wonder what would be its title. Perhaps, if he were alive today writing this *telenovela*, and if I were his friend, I would suggest to him "The Bastard," for its title.

—JOEL RAMOS,
bambiyan_x@yahoo.com

Crisis in education enough reason for GMA to resign

THE CRISIS in governance worsens the crisis in education and President Macapagal-Arroyo has brought the education sector to a crisis of unprecedented depths.

The reform package she's peddling, which includes a scholarship program, school-building program and computerization, will not resolve this long-drawn crisis.

The government spends heavily for debt servicing even as it gives the education sector just a little over 14 percent of the national budget. This shows how much importance the government gives to reforms in our educational system.

Worse, GMA is devoted to disastrous economic policies that continuously deregulate, privatize and liberalize the education sector. With the government systematically abandoning its responsibility to educate our people, there is no doubt that we will soon find the Philippine educational system at the bottom of the "international educational ladder," so to speak. In the 2003 Trends International Mathematics and Science Study, our country ranked 36th, far behind our Asian neighbors such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and South Korea. The education sector is definitely unable to meet the international educational standards.

As a contributor to national economic development, it has also flunked, unable to produce the kind of competence that is demanded and can compete in the labor market. There are now about 5 million unemployed Filipinos. With this number, we have created a sizable economic force that is susceptible to the exploitation and abuse of preying capitalists.

The youth believe that GMA cannot address their basic needs such as education and employment. And in the midst of the numerous scandals now facing her and her family, with her legitimacy as President under very dark clouds of doubts and with her moral ascendancy practically lost, she cannot be expected to govern the affairs of state with confidence.

The only way GMA can survive the scandals is for her to get out of Malacañang and pave the way for a democratic transition.

—RIZZA VELASQUEZ,
media officer,
Movement for the Advancement
of Student Power,
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How far 'thank you's' can go with every kind, helpful act

I COMMUTE via jeepney almost every day. And every time, I am struck by the lack of simple courtesy, which was commonplace during my youth, when The Beatles ruled the airwaves.

A passenger hands his fare to the driver, and someone takes the fare and places it in the driver's hand. Basic politeness dictates that one should thank the person who handed the fare to the driver.

A simple "Thank you" or "*Salamat*" would do. But you hardly ever hear these words. I make it a point to say "*Salamat*" every time someone does me this favor. Of course, I miss out on occasion, but I do make an effort to thank that helpful person.

I somehow expect other passengers to say "*Salamat*" when I do them this favor. But this hardly ever happens. I can't even recall the last time it did.

I tried a simple experiment only recently. I counted the number of people who thanked the other person who handed for them their fare to the driver.

In 21 jeepney rides, I counted 108 instances when someone handed another passenger's fare to the driver. Only three people bothered to say "*Salamat*" or "Thank you." Just three people and they looked like they were in their 30s. Not one teenager.

This result reminded me of the angels' search for 50 good men at Sodom and Gomorrah. It also told me that courtesy should be taught at school, from elementary to college. It's the little things like saying "Thank you" that reveal the moral and intellectual quality of a people.

Courtesy is contagious. If more of us bothered to say "*Salamat*" or "Thank you" for a favor, or smiled instead, we'd find a lot more to like in our fellowmen. We'd learn the meaning of being kind and considerate.

The first place to start practicing these simple, forgotten courtesies would be at home. I'd be right if I said that very few Filipino parents even bother thanking their children for doing them a service. That's because most Pinoy parents remain authoritarian. It's still a boss-employee relationship in nearly all families.

But it wouldn't hurt to thank your children once in a while. If saying thank you is against your parental management style, a smile will do. Or a nod of approval. That will tell your kids it's all right to be kind.

Our grim country needs all the kindness and smiles we can give it. So, have the courage to say "Thank You" or "*Salamat*" when an officemate does you a favor; when a guard opens a door for you or when your brother runs an errand for you. Little courtesies will go a long way in making this country a better place. Let's spread them around.

—ART VILLASANTA,
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Why there's no People Power

IT will not be easy to make President Macapagal-Arroyo relinquish the presidency. She will not step down just because a motley group of leftists, rightists and some ambitious odd balls want her out. If she is taken out forcefully through unconstitutional means, the shedding of blood will be unavoidable with the military loyal to her. If she resigns, would that make everyone comfortable with Noli de Castro becoming president?

Impeachment is also hard to imagine with GMA controlling both houses of Congress. But if the impossible happens and GMA is impeached, we are back to square one with that nagging question: Would we be comfortable with Noli? This is not to demean the Vice President, but people have differing perceptions.

GMA has learned much from the lessons of Edsa I, II, and III and she will not make the same mistakes that brought Marcos and Erap down. She has handpicked trusted men in the military and police leadership—just as retiring AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu's term has been extended today—and she will rely on them if push comes to shove. Also, remaining passive are the real movers of People Power—the middle class and big business, who are reluctant to see a regime change for fear of losing the early gains of an economic recovery; and, worse, of a junta taking over the reins of government, as another failed governance is certain in the hands of dubious and ambitious opposition personalities.

Some say that Eddie Villanueva and Susan Roces may have the numbers to bring out the warm bodies but so long as the military remains loyal to GMA, all their efforts will be futile. Finally, didn't Roces tell whistle-blower Sammy Ong, who begged her to help overthrow GMA, that it was her late husband FPJ that she wanted to be president? And rightly so, why should she allow herself to be used by any ambitious Tom, Dick and Abat so they will become president?

Villanueva's teaming up with Roces may also spell problems for him because Roces' followers are basically Erap loyalists and they do not come up to the standards of the real movers of People Power. Do you still wonder why the people in general have not heeded the call of a few to change the leadership?

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,
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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Cockatoos call from the wild

By Jofelle Tesorio
Narra, Palawan

THEY used to poach the endangered Philippine cockatoos and sell for P50 each. Now, they swore never to go back to their illegal trade after being hired as wardens of the island that is home to hundreds of rare flora and fauna.

Aguilardo Deig, a Tagbanua, is among the eight wardens hired by the Katala Foundation Inc. that implements the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program (PCCP) in Palawan, to protect Rasa Island.

Rasa, the pilot site of the PCCP, is an 8.34-sq-km coral island in the Sulu Sea, just off Narra town, 85 km from Palawan's capital Puerto Princesa City.

Deig, also called Agui, is tasked with monitoring Rasa and other mainland sites where cockatoos (*Cacatua haematuropygia*), known in Filipino as *katala*, usually dwell.

Deig is the president of the Sagip Katala Movement, which checks the cockatoos and other species of conservation concern, such as the green parrots, pigeon egrets, Nicobar pigeon, brown shrike, blue-headed racquet-tail, sea cow (*dugong*), marine turtle and other species thriving in the forest and coastal marine areas.

Rasa has 98 recorded species.

Monitoring birds on the island is not an easy job; it requires special skills that not everyone can acquire. In the case of Deig and the other wardens, being former bird poachers is an advantage.

More than listing down sightings of cockatoos and other species, they climb 30-meter trees, where birds' nests are found. They occasionally check the status of the hatchlings. When one of them is not well, the wardens act as nurses, feeding them with special food.

"We have a great responsibility to the birds," Deig said in Filipino.

Deig saw how the cockatoos decreased in number in Rasa when many people in his community turned to poaching. When he started his illegal trade in 1982, there were about 200 cockatoos in the island. He knew because a tree could be a roosting place for 30 birds.

From December to June, when the birds bred, his group could catch 30 birds in just five days.

Deig has realized that they gained nothing from poaching. They sold each bird for P50, but sellers in Manila were pricing it for P500. Now, the bird is sold in pet shops for about P1,500 each.

Considering the cost of the birds and the effect of their absence on the ecosystem, Deig said he now preferred to be a warden. Poaching, he said, was not sustainable.

As poaching activities continued, the number of birds dropped to only 24.

In 1998, the Katala Foundation, led by German conservationist Peter Widmann, started the conservation program. Widmann was later joined by another conservation expert, Indira Dayang Lacerna. Love for their work brought them together and led to their marriage.

It was through the couple's efforts that the Rasa cockatoos obtained help from funding agencies. The first thing that the Widmanns did was to recruit wardens from among the poachers.

Support

"It was never easy dealing with former poachers because they thought that we took away their livelihood," said Siegfred Diaz, Katala field operations coordinator.

Diaz, a local conservation expert, recalled a lot of brushes with the local community when they started the program. He was challenged to a fist fight and a knife duel because of the project. Today, he just laughs off the incidents because they have proven that it was worth all the effort.

Diaz said it was also important that the local government of Narra supported the program because it facilitated getting the people's approval.

With assistance from local officials and international organizations such as the Loro Parque Fundacion of Spain, Chester Zoological Gardens of London, Conservation International of the United States, Cepa (Conservation des Especes et des Populations Animales) of France, ZGAP (Zoologische Gesellschaft fur Arten-und Populationsschutz e.V.) of Germany and United Nations Development Programme-Small Grants Program, Katala has sustained all the conservation activities in Rasa.

Since the project began in 1998, the number of cockatoos has gone up from 24 to 110.

THE ENDANGERED Philippine Cockatoos are often mistaken as white parrots. They now thrive on Rasa Island in Narra, Palawan. PHOTO COURTESY OF BENEDICT DE LAENDER AND PETER WIDMANN FOR KATALA FOUNDATION, INC.

"I have learned a lot here. We have learned good manners," said Deig, who never had formal education. Because of the exposure and training as a warden, he has become candid and smart.

Safety

Diaz said they taught the wardens to write their reports in English but did not force them to do it so long as they could communicate what they had done and observed on the island.

The wardens have learned to become creative to make the climbing easier and less risky, he said. Wardens Doy Alisto, 27, and Edwin Batac, 33, showed how to use an improvised harness made of sack and the ladder they invented to climb the huge trees.

No matter how experienced the climbers may be, safety is still the paramount concern of the Katala Foundation, Diaz said. Besides, he said, it was almost impossible to climb a 30-meter tree with a trunk equivalent to the combined length of the stretched arms of five persons.

Some tree species could easily die with just a small cut.

For the wardens' protection, they were given insurance policies, Diaz said.

The morning for wardens start with coffee and a heavy breakfast of rice and dried fish. Then they go to their designated areas. Rasa is a huge island and circling it by foot could take a day or so.

Each warden climbs at least four trees a day, depending on the weather. When it rains, the trunks are slippery.

Climbing activities end after the breeding season. The wardens just monitor other species and guard the area against poachers.

Residents are still allowed to gather honey and other forest products, but they have to ask for permission from the wardens, who are deputized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to apprehend poachers.

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5 top Red leaders in C. Luzon nabbed

By Tonette Orejas and Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Soldiers and policemen on Tuesday arrested five top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Central Luzon in a house in San Jose, Tarlac, a top military official said.

The arrest of Danny Ladera, Eugenia Magpantay, Neptali Santos, Carlito Collado and Anthony Romero, reportedly the highest-ranking officials of the CPP's Central Luzon revolutionary committee, dealt a "major blow" to the 36-year-old communist movement in the country, said Major Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

"This committee's strength has already been limited to Tarlac," Dominguez said in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

Soldiers from the Army's 703rd Infantry Brigade and Tarlac policemen arrested the CPP leaders in a house in Barangay Mababanaba in San Jose at 4 p.m.

Reports said there was no gunfight during the arrest. A Nolcom statement said the arrest of the group was a result of information from residents in the village.

Government troops reported recovering a .30 cal. carbine, two .45 cal. pistols, a hand grenade, a magazine for a 9 mm gun, three laptops, two mobile phones and 23 compact and video discs from the house where the group was found.

Nolcom reports identified Magpantay as chair of the Central Luzon regional party committee; Santos, secretary of the second guerrilla front of the Tarlac provincial party committee and head of the provincial united front staff of the CPP's white area committee; Ladera, leader of the Komiteng Larangang Gerilya Front 2; Collado, a squad leader; and Romero, a community organizer.

Ladera is a younger brother of slain Tarlac City Councilor Abelardo Ladera. Councilor Ladera, who was gunned down in March, was a supporter of the striking workers of Hacienda Luisita.

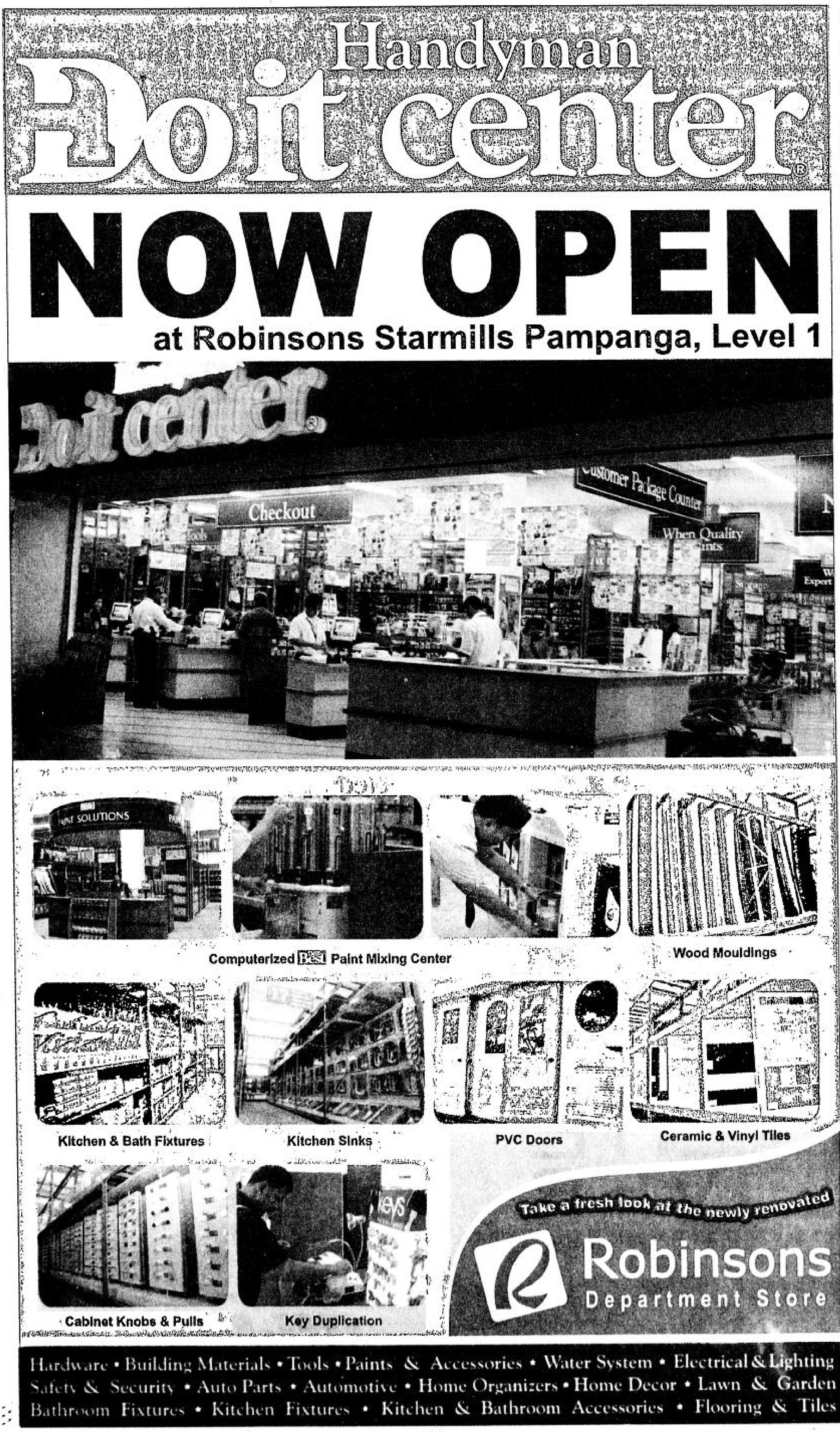
The CPP leaders were charged with illegal possession of firearms. They were detained at the Tarlac provincial jail.

The police, in a separate report, said arrest warrants for various crimes were issued for the five.

Magpantay's name did not appear in the police list. It cited a certain Evelyn Muñoz instead.

Col. Samuel Narcise, 703rd IB commander, said the lone woman in the group insisted she was not Magpantay but the soldiers believed otherwise. Magpantay's last known arrest was in 1998.

Dominguez said he was expecting the tactical interrogation to draw "a lot of information" on the ongoing Hacienda Luisita labor dispute that the military believed was guided by the CPP and backed up by its armed wing, the New People's Army.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Gov's beach house yields Batangas gov't property

CALACA, Batangas—What's wrong with an elegant fountain, landscaped garden, and Japanese rock set in a newly refurbished private beach house surrounded by an old cyclone fence?

Nothing wrong, except if the provincial government paid for all these, not to mention the materials that came straight from the capitol.

At the 8,000-square-meter beach house of Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez in Barangay Salong in this town, the missing tip of the capitol's old fountain dots the center of the landscaped garden.

"The landscaping of the garden was also from the capitol, with the capitol's workmen coming here on weekdays to do the job," caretaker Tony Closa said.

"Everything you see here is courtesy of the capitol. Boy Lazaro is on top of all the improvements here," Closa added.

Boy Lazaro or Mario Lazaro is the general services officer of the Batangas provincial government and was appointed to that post by Sanchez in July last year. He was confirmed a month after.

Also the provincial bids and awards committee chair, Lazaro has been Sanchez's man since his six-year stint as mayor of Sto. Tomas town.

Even the stone tables and chairs that used to be in the capitol's sunken garden are in the resort, on the right side of the entrance gate.

The old cyclone fence, some portions of which are already worn out from years of use at the capitol, was also recycled at the resort--used as its fence.

A look inside the cottages revealed that even the old office chairs that were used at the capitol were transferred here.

Each of the three beach houses has two cottages made of nipa but a look inside the cottages reveals that they have concrete floors and walls.

"The people who work at the capitol are the same people who work here," Closa said.

He added that the construction is not even finished yet, as the capitol people are supposed to put up a big pavilion for seminars and meetings at the left side of the resort.

But what really made the ownership of the resort so obvious is the tarpoline with Sanchez's name and picture on it and which is used to cover one of the three cottages.

The tarpoline was used by Sanchez's party in the billboard during the May 2004 elections.

Death toll in Zambo clan war rises to 13

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The death toll in Monday's carnage in Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay rose to 13 with the death of two more wounded victims, police said yesterday.

The names of the latest fatalities were not released but based on the list of those killed given by the police, the 13 victims were identified as Ridzma Elhano, 6, Nurkiya Elhano, 4, Muhaijir Daud, 3, Darwisa Ahmad, 13, Nurshaima Anuddin, 16, Misra Putal, 25, Nursiya Ammang, 38, Nafsiya Ammang, 18, Rahya Putal, 48, Timhar Putal, 26, Jubaira Putal, 80, a certain Yusop, 36, and Nabdul Elhano, 36.

Brig. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the attack on Sitio Muddok in Barangay Lapaz was triggered by a clan war between the Ekong and the Hari family.

Most of the victims belong to the Hari clan.

Supt. Roseller Arieta, Zamboanga Sibugay police chief, said the police were preparing charges against members of the Ekong clan tagged in the attack, which also left 24 people wounded.

"We have already taken the testimonies of the survivors," Arieta said.

He said soldiers and policemen, backed by Huey helicopters, have also launched a manhunt against the suspects, who were believed to be hiding near Muddok.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said at least two teams of soldiers have also been deployed to the island-barangay of Lapaz to prevent another attack as the suspects were still at large.

The feud between the two families started with the death of Wahab Ekong in April.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, Western Mindanao police chief, said prior to the attack, there were already efforts to bring peace to the warring clans.

Julie Alipala with reports from Hernan de la Cruz and Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Govs, local execs say GMA deserves a second chance

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Give the President a chance.

This was the appeal of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) following the apology issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo for making inappropriate calls to an election official during the canvassing in last year's elections.

This was reached by the members of the executive committee of both organizations during an emergency meeting on Monday night after Ms Arroyo made the televised address to the nation, according to Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of both the LPP and the Ulap.

During their meeting, Aumentado said they appealed to the different sectors to give Ms Arroyo a chance to fulfill her reform programs.

"The LPP and Ulap are urging to the people to understand the President and we should give her a chance to continue the reforms in the government," he said.

"LPP and Ulap are also calling the people to rally behind one Constitution, one nation and rally behind the duly constituted authority and the Philippine flag," he added.

The LPP is an organization of governors in the country while Ulap is a confederation of the different leagues of local officials nationwide.

Aumentado said LPP and Ulap described the President's apology as the "highest act of statesmanship and humility."

"It's very rare for a President to do that. She showed her statesmanship and humility to the highest degree," the Bohol governor said.

Aumentado said they agreed with Ms Arroyo's statement that when she made the call to the election official, it was done after the completion of the canvassing in the towns, cities and provinces.

Such a call, he added, would not influence the outcome of the election because at that time, the election returns and the certificates of canvass (COCs) were already submitted to Congress, which acted as the National Board of Canvassers.

Aumentado also cited the exit polls conducted by the Social Weather Station (SWS) and some media outlets that showed Ms Arroyo gaining a lead over the late movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

The governor asked those who wanted to oust Ms Arroyo to follow the legal process and not to resort in another people power so as not to give more problems to the country.

REPLY TO MANILA SCANDALS

Federalists demand separate republic

DAVAO CITY—Aghast over the political storm now brewing in the country as a result of the recent *jueteng* and wiretapping scandals, federalists here are strongly agitating for a separate Mindanao to finally put an end to what they call "Manila-centered" political intramurals.

"Only the federal form of government can offer a quick and legitimate solution to these problems," said businessman Romeo Serra, vice chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC).

"With federalism, Manila could no longer impose its will on us, like what it is about to do now," said Serra, who urged the media not to play along with politicians who are bent on unseating the President.

"The problem in our country is not the lack of investments nor joblessness," Serra said. "The problem is too much politics."

Serra echoed the earlier call by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to establish a "separate Mindanao" if opposition groups staged another Edsa uprising and succeeded in unseating Ms Arroyo.

Aside from opposition groups, militant groups are also gearing for a series of protest actions calling for the ouster of the President.

Serra said the current political situation in Manila makes it more urgent for the government and for the people to go for the federal form of government.

"With the federal form of government, there would be less corruption because the government is no longer centralized and Metro Manila could no longer impose its decisions on us here," Serra said.

"In cases of erring public official, the federal states can give a vote of no confidence and the official is out of office without severely affecting the economy," he added.

Jun Apareche, head of the Lihuk Federal secretariat for southeastern Mindanao, said the beleaguered Arroyo administration can still find a way out of the crisis it is facing now by calling for a Constitutional Convention, through which the government can seek fresh mandate from the people and compensate for the credibility it has lost.

"But whether Arroyo stays in power, or there'd be another transitory government, a Constitutional Convention is the only way in which the government can seek the mandate of the people and for genuine reforms to take place," he said.

In Cotabato City, an influential Muslim militant group in Mindanao called on Ms Arroyo to resign as she addressed the three-week-old political crisis over the wiretapped phone conversation.

"She (President) should know better that a simple 'I am sorry' line will not exonerate her from her crimes. She has violated the elections laws ... therefore she should face her crimes against the people," Amirah Lidasan, Suara Bangsamoro Party-list national vice chair, said. *Germelina Lacorte, Judy Quiros, Jeoffrey Maitem, Jeffrey Tupas and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Health risks force Baguio to restore waste haul

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A GARBAGE COLLECTOR returns to his job in Baguio City. The Baguio government stopped its garbage collection services for more than 10 days to penalize residents who refuse to segregate their waste. It was, however, compelled to restore the service when the health department warned of another epidemic.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—The city government has cut its garbage collection services to many of its barangays for the last 10 days, a move apparently taken to penalize residents who refuse to segregate their waste.

But local officials were forced to restore the services on Monday after Dr. Florence Reyes, city health officer, warned that the uncollected garbage in the villages was an invitation to "another epidemic."

Mayor Braulio Yaranon ordered Nezita Banez, assistant city environment officer, to begin collecting the garbage in the city's interior villages.

"I was furious. Even the yard in front of the Baguio health department was littered with uncollected garbage," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

Monitor

"I have sent out sanitation teams to monitor the situation in barangays," she said.

Only 26 barangays have complied with a waste segregation program that the city has enforced on all 128 villages since April, according to the city architect and environment management office.

Romeo Concio, chief of the general services office, introduced the waste segregation program in March 2004 but Banez sped up its implementation this year because the Department of Environment and Natural Resources gave the city only until 2006 to convert its only dumpsite in Barangay Irisan into a sanitary landfill.

No collection

Banez has warned residents that city sanitation officers will refuse to collect non-segregated waste starting June, following a two-month long transition period for communities to develop their own waste segregation mechanisms.

But the city council has not yet reinforced the waste segregation program with an environment code and a solid waste management code that will impose penalties.

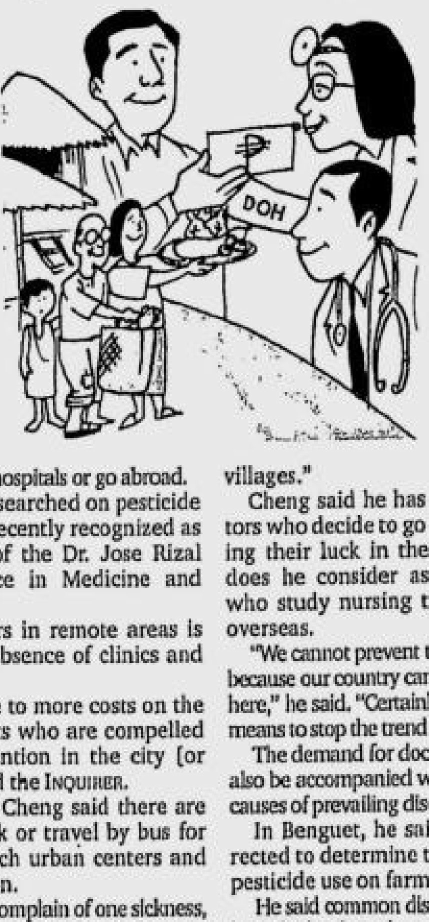
Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia, chair of the city council's committee on environment, said councilors are still discussing both measures because the government will need to decide the method of management it intends to facilitate.

The dump has reached its maximum capacity, and Baguio is considering an offer made by Mayor Nestor Fongwan of nearby La Trinidad, Benguet, to lease a portion of its sanitary landfill instead.

Waste volume

Baguio generates up to 272 metric tons of garbage daily due to the city's transient population and five shopping malls. Residents generate 77 percent of the summer capital's daily garbage. The city market contributes 18 percent of the waste.

DOH asked to make attractive medical practice in provinces



BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Health must seriously consider adopting measures to make medical practice in the rural areas attractive, a doctor here said.

Dr. Charles Cheng, director of the Filipino-Chinese General Hospital here, said a void remains in the delivery of basic medical services in rural villages and this can be explained by the preference of doctors to work in high paying hospitals or go abroad.

Cheng, who had researched on pesticide use in Benguet, was recently recognized as a lifetime awardee of the Dr. Jose Rizal Award for Excellence in Medicine and Community Service.

The lack of doctors in remote areas is made worse by the absence of clinics and hospitals, he said.

"This will translate to more costs on the part of rural residents who are compelled to seek medical attention in the city [or town center]," he told the INQUIRER.

In Benguet alone, Cheng said there are still people who walk or travel by bus for hours or days to reach urban centers and seek medical attention.

"Worse, while they complain of one sickness, diagnosis would show that they actually suffer from three to four other illnesses," he said.

He said these diseases could have been avoided if there were hospitals and doctors who stayed in the villages.

As of 2004, 220 rural hospitals had closed, Cheng said.

He said the country's top killer diseases are tuberculosis, acute respiratory tract infection, malaria, dengue and HIV. "But immediate medical attention can arrest these diseases if their symptoms are attended to right away," he said.

"The DOH must make and prepare a package to convince doctors to render service in remote villages."

Cheng said he has nothing against doctors who decide to go abroad instead of trying their luck in the rural areas. Neither does he consider as "abnormal" doctors who study nursing to be hired as nurses overseas.

"We cannot prevent them from going abroad because our country cannot afford to keep them here," he said. "Certainly, the DOH must devise means to stop the trend of doctors going away."

The demand for doctors in the villages must also be accompanied with a move to study the causes of prevailing diseases in those areas.

In Benguet, he said, efforts must be directed to determine the effects of excessive pesticide use on farmers' health.

He said common diseases in the province are bronchial asthma, bronchitis, cancer and goiter.

"Sixty percent of these diseases could be attributed to the use of pesticides since the province is basically a vegetable producing area where farmers have became highly dependent on pesticides as farm inputs," he said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops arrest suspected drug lord in Davao raid

DAVAO CITY—Authorities here arrested on Tuesday the alleged owner of a shabu laboratory that lawmen raided in Cavite in July 2003.

Sze Man-Pen, alias Benito Sy or Sze, a 60-year-old Chinese national, whose last known address was New York Street, Merville Subdivision in Parañaque City, was arrested by operatives of the Philippine National Police's Regional Intelligence Office (PNP-RIO), Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID), and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) at his rented house in Doña Paz Subdivision in Km 10, Sasa here around 9 a.m.

Supt. Wilkins Villanueva, PDEA director for Southern Mindanao, said Sy, who carries a bounty of P500,000, was arrested based on a warrant issued by Judge Reuben de la Cruz of the Regional Trial Court Branch 18 in Silang, Cavite on Oct. 16, 2003.

He said that soon after the raid on Sy's shabu laboratory in Cavite, the suspected drug lord fled Luzon with his family here to hide.

Villanueva said Sy later engaged in buying and selling of fish in the city.

Benjamin Lao, BID regional alien control officer, said that aside from his involvement in illegal drugs, Sy is also an undocumented alien.

Senior Insp. Roland Agohob, RIO chief, said it took them a month to prepare the operation before finally arresting Sy.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who presented Sy to reporters, said it would have been better if the suspected drug lord had been killed.

"I actually prefer him dead than be captured," he said during yesterday's presentation of the suspected drug lord.

Duterte said the problem about suspects arrested alive is that the government has to spend for their transportation, food and other expenses. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No VAT factor in new wage hikes

BAGUIO CITY—The new round of wage increases that became applicable this month has not incorporated the impact of the expanded value added tax (VAT) that takes effect on July 1, labor officials here said on Wednesday.

The new VAT measure removes all exemptions that are normally accorded basic goods, including previous tax shields for fuel and power.

"The issue [of VAT] was in the minds of the regional tripartite wages and productivity board (RTWBP)," said Theodore Delson, wage board secretary in the Cordillera.

But a VAT on power and fuel could not be factored into the wage computations because no projections were available when President Macapagal-Arroyo promised to raise wages in the country in May, Delson said.

He said the national tripartite wages and productivity board (NTWPB) is ready to review the June wage rates under the assumption that the country will be facing economic hardship once the impact of VAT is felt by consumers.

The wage law prohibits government from increasing wages within a one-year prescription period of a previous wage order.

Delson said Ms Arroyo made an exemption when she authorized pay hikes in May 2004, which was three months before a wage order issued in August 2004 in the Cordillera had completed its prescription period.

The Department of Finance has proposed new tax ceilings on fuel and electricity to protect consumers but the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) announced on June 10 that electricity consumption rates would increase by 13 percent.

Delson said the Cordillera wage board incorporated a projected 0.03 percent hike in transportation services, to compensate for the new fare increases when it raised by P20 the cost of living allowance (Cola) for the region.

The Cordillera wage ceiling as of June is P224.

What the Cordillera board could not understand, however, was the increase in household expenditures for cellular telephones in last year's consumer price index (CPI), Delson said. The CPI measures how much households cope with increased cost of basic or selected goods.

"Instead of buying food, [workers here spent] for [electronic load for mobile telephones]," Delson said.

Expenses for telephone services in the 2004 CPI in the Cordillera rose from 8 percent to 13 percent, while expenses for food dropped from 54 percent to 50 percent, he said.

The Cordillera is composed of provinces, which belong to the country's poorest.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, "the year 2004 generally saw a marked uptrend in prices for key goods and services, particularly food, fuel and transport [and the] inflation rate was highest in the [Cordillera] at 8.6 percent." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

90 militant groups form coalition to oust GMA

"WELCOME to GMA's *despedida.*"

This announcement opened the assembly yesterday of at least 90 militant groups who came together for the first time to forge a coalition that will oust President Macapagal-Arroyo and set up a transitional revolutionary government.

The alliance, dubbed "Laban ng Masa," saw rival political blocs Sanlakas and Akbayan, and their separate networks, joining forces to draft one action plan for social and economic reforms.

The coalition, composed of economists, professors, students and Muslim leaders, rejected both the constitutionally appointed successors and traditional opposition leaders to replace Ms Arroyo.

"Snap elections will not ease the nation's agony. The vote-buying and cheating machines of traditional politicians are intact. Holding snap elections now will only put in power the same scoundrels who represent the same elite," Laban ng Masa said in a manifesto.

"We call for a revolutionary government that will not be encumbered by the legal and institutional constraints that preserve the system of the elite," it said.

Plaza Miranda

Today, other militant groups and forces supportive of the late Fernando Poe Jr. will converge at the Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila, according to Roberto de Castro, deputy secretary general of Bayan Muna.

"There will be a rally every week, and there's a big one coming on July 7. That will be a nationwide protest action," Castro told the INQUIRER.

"July is full [of planned mass actions] ... The Sona (State of the Nation Address) of the President on July 25) is another major date," he said.

Today, at least 5,000 members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Kilusang Mayong Uno, the women's party Gabriela, Bayan Muna and several other groups are expected to flock to Plaza Miranda.

The National Coordinating Council of Volunteers (NCCV) for Poe and the United Opposition (UNO) will be there, too, according to Linggoy Alcuaz of the NCCV.

A noise barrage at Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City was scheduled last night.

Summit

Members of the multisectoral group led by three senior Catholic bishops will meet tomorrow for a summit on the current political crisis at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila.

The Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME) will gather representatives of its 52 chapters nationwide to decide on the group's course of action in the light of Ms Arroyo's admission that she was the woman in the controversial tape, according to its chair, Jimmy Regalario.

The KME is headed by Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, bishop emeritus of the prelature of Infanta, and Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches.

The KME had been calling on the Arroyo administration to implement drastic reforms to keep the country's economic policies immune from foreign intervention.

But with the President apparently ignoring their plea, the group held a "national day of mourning" on June 11 to protest what it called her administration's subservience to foreign interests. *Blanche S. Rivera, Luige A. del Puerto and Christian V. Esguerra*

Angry Susan calls on GMA to resign

From page A1

Looking straight at the camera, Roces continued: "Remember, Mrs. Arroyo, before the foreign investors can trust you, you must first have the trust of your countrymen, which unfortunately you have lost. You have embarrassed the Filipinos enough."

Many in the opposition want Roces, an actress, to lead their fractured ranks, but she had been reluctant to assume the role.

But yesterday, asked if it was time for people to take to the streets, she said: "You start, and I'll finish it."

Cue cards

Wearing a white outfit, pearl earrings and a single-strand pearl necklace, Roces read her speech from cue cards.

Her confidante, Marichu Vera-Perez, served as moderator of the press conference attended by her daughter Mary Grace, grandson Bryan, sister-in-law Elizabeth, and lawyer Harriet Demetriou.

Vera-Perez told the INQUIRER that Roces decided to hold a press conference late Tuesday night.

"We had to rush with the preparations," Vera-Perez said.

Movie producer Lily Monteverde, director Boots Plata and friends from the movie industry later joined Roces at the packed Kalayaan Hall.

Roces was mainly commenting on the President's "I'm sorry" speech on Monday night, wherein the latter confessed that it was she talking with an election official in the alleged wiretapped phone conversations suggesting cheating in the 2004 polls.

Asked if she would lead demonstrations to force Ms Arroyo's resignation, Roces said: "We will get there. It depends how hardheaded this president is."

Answered prayers

Roces chided Ms Arroyo for the three-week silence over the controversial tape.

"Why did it take so long? It's because there was something in that tape that she wanted to keep a secret—the cheating in the last elections," Roces said.

She said the secret would have remained so had not the tape been exposed.

"The heavens must have answered my prayers and the prayers of all who supported FPJ," she said, referring to her husband by his initials. "The heavens have decided that we have the right to know the truth."

Roces held the press conference after the President told a group of businessmen in Makati City that her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, who had been linked to the illegal numbers game "jueteng," would soon live abroad.

Asked if Mike Arroyo's exile would help quell the growing clamor for Ms Arroyo's resignation, Roces said it was a "personal decision" of the First Couple.

Pressed to say more, she retorted: *"Hindi ko alam ang kasaysayan ng kanilang pagmamahalan* (I do not know the history of their romance)."

No longer low-key

At the end of the press conference, cheering supporters chanted Roces' name and showered her with rose petals.

ROCES to GMA: I cannot accept your apology. You have betrayed public trust.

Once dubbed as local moviedom's "face that refreshes," Roces emerged from retirement last year when her husband decided to run for president.

But she kept a low profile during the election campaign, always deferring to her husband, who was recognized as the "king of Philippine movies."

At her husband's wake in December, Roces berated a reporter of the giant ABS-CBN for the network's alleged biased coverage of Poe's campaign.

Four months later, in April, an angry Roces assailed the decision of the Supreme Court (sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal) to junk her petition to substitute for her husband in his election protest. The tribunal said she was not the "interested party" in the protest.

Voice of the people

"She (Roces) voiced and reflected the public sentiment. This is the voice of our ordinary countrymen about the tape and the cheating in the last elections," said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

Told that the opposition still had no "clear alternative" to Ms Arroyo, Escudero said: "Like what [Roces] said, and I don't want to preempt her or put words in her mouth, we will know in the coming days, depending on the situation, who it will be, when, and how."

Asked if he thought Roces had the political maturity to lead the opposition, he said: "That depends on your definition of political maturity. In my view, what a leader needs is sincerity and credibility in serving the majority.

"Ever since FPJ died, [Roces] has served as an inspiration not just for the united opposition but also for the people. She has been a guide to where our country and people are going.

"With Ma'am Susan, what you see is what you get. She always speaks from the heart."

Escudero said the opposition was prepared to join Roces in street protests in calling for the President's resignation.

"We've already said before that we are prepared to pursue this inside Congress or outside, if they lock us out of the process in Congress. We are prepared to lead, accompany, or follow the people," he said.

Not a solution

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., one of the first to call for Ms Arroyo's resignation following the revelation of her phone conversations with an election officer identified as then Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, said Roces' anger should move the President, not to perform better but to step down.

According to Pimentel, Roces' statements showed that Ms Arroyo's confession and apology did not comprise a solution for her problems.

"Susan's stand that [Ms Arroyo] has no other option but to resign clearly suggests that the false apology created more problems for her," Pimentel told the INQUIRER. "[Ms Arroyo] should step down now before the country gets into an upheaval."

Pimentel said that when a Catholic went to confession, the priest would say: "Your sins are forgiven. Sin no more but restore what you have stolen."

"In this case, [Ms Arroyo] stole the votes of the people. She cannot restore then anymore because Fernando Poe Jr. is already dead," he said. "But she can make some kind of restitution to the Filipino people by resigning so that a new mandate can be given to a new leader." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora*

'She's too beautiful to be sent to jail'

From page A1

speech would further inflame those sectors calling for the President's resignation.

"We are not afraid of anybody," he declared. "The government has the right to self-defense. It's a constitutional right."

Asked whether Roces' movements would now be monitored, Gonzalez said: "I have to say that I think the government always checks on the people ... Otherwise, we'll be caught flatfooted all the time."

He took exception to Roces' statement that Ms Arroyo "stole the presidency twice."

He said the statement was "ridiculous because the [Supreme Court] has already upheld the [Arroyo presidency] twice."

Body language

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye called on Poe's widow not to yield to her emotions.

"We feel her hatred and frustration—it is clear from her body language," Bunye said at a briefing. "I hope that we won't get carried away by our strong feelings and by the hotheads [around us]. We should be reasonable and follow the law."

Bunye dismissed Roces' call for Ms Arroyo to resign: "We cannot accept this kind of remarks because there was no cheating in last year's elections. The opposition lost [starting on] Day One because [it was] not united. [It] lost because the President had a clear platform that the majority of our citizens voted for."

He said Roces' remarks were uttered in a "very emotionally charged atmosphere."

"We have to consider the circumstances under which those words were spoken," he said.

Gabriel Claudio, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said Malacañang fully understood Roces' outburst.

"We know where she's coming from because after all, she is the widow of the main rival of the President last year, and her husband had just died," Claudio said.

Bunye and Claudio parried Roces' accusations of cheating by saying that the President's wiretapped conversations were inadmissible in court and that her lead over Poe was too big to be overturned by the votes in the areas discussed in the controversial tape.

Wake-up call

Ms Arroyo's allies in the Senate called for respect for constitutional processes but also raised the need for her to contain the turmoil.

"This is a wake-up call for the President ... for her to hasten the reforms so that she can recover the confidence of the people," Senate President Franklin Drilon said, adding:

"She must not only institute dramatic reforms, she must [also] do it as quickly as she can. Time is clearly of the essence. She does not have the luxury of time."

Both Drilon and Sen. Manuel Roxas II called for sobriety.

"We cannot resolve this by getting angry," Drilon said. "We should be sober and we should follow the processes of the law for an orderly society. I can understand the frustration of the opposition, and it is the duty of everyone to make sure that the process established by our Constitution will work—or else we will have anarchy."

Asked if the constitutional process would be upheld even if it meant the impeachment or resignation of Ms Arroyo, Drilon said: "That is correct. We should follow the constitutional process whatever is the consequence."

"As to what happens in the future, the Constitution must be followed," Roxas said. "It's all that separates us from anarchy and chaos and, worse, rule by the barrel of the gun."

Drilon said the electoral protest of ex-Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro should help resolve doubts about the integrity of the 2004 elections.

"I am one with Susan Roces that indeed the truth should come out. All of us are interested in the truth, and we are hopeful that by Loren Legarda's continuous pursuit of her protest, the truth will come out ... This is the process in an orderly society," Drilon said.

GMA's men

The President's allies came to her defense.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario said Roces' call was "illogical" and "legally baseless."

"Susan is too emotional. What is improper may not be necessarily illegal. The President has no legal basis to resign from her mandate, having been duly elected to the position ...," Nograles said.

He recalled that the President apologized on Monday night for an impropriety because of a lapse in judgment, but "never" for cheating in the election.

Almario said Roces should not allow herself to be used by those "taking advantage of her grief to agitate the people and destabilize the government."

"She should opt to be an instrument of peace and unity in our country, especially during these difficult times," Almario said.

No real alternative

Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita said Roces' words were vague and "offered no real alternative."

"She was only clear in her desire to make the President resign. But this is out of the question when Ms Arroyo still enjoys overwhelming support from the people who elected her," he said.

He also said Roces accomplished nothing at her press conference except unload personal baggage. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza*

Peso crashes after Susan rejects Gloria's apology

From page A1

five-month close of 56.05 following the surprise move by actress Susan Roces, Poe's widow, which overshadowed the announcement of Ms Arroyo that her scandal-prone husband would soon leave the country.

Dealers said a stronger dollar and rising world crude prices also weighed on the peso, which closed 55.69 on Tuesday, a day after Ms Arroyo publicly apologized for a controversial phone call she made to an election official purportedly to protect her million-vote victory margin in the presidential election. Ms Arroyo denied she cheated and insisted she would finish her term.

Dramatic

"The market did not expect the dramatic press conference of Susan Roces... There's so much anger in the tone, but it's part of the political noise," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines.

"There was a knee-jerk reaction after Susan Roces refused to accept Arroyo's apology. We will likely see a test of the peso's all-time low (of 56.45) in the coming days," a currency dealer at a commercial bank added.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco said "the exchange rate should be doing better—if you look at the fundamentals."

Many traders, however, are worried that fiery news briefing of Poe's widow would further fuel tension in the country. "It looks like it won't be over very soon. This will be a nagging issue," a trader said.

More questions

The announcement of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's exile appeared designed to placate jittery investors and help the President—who has made the fight against corruption a cornerstone of her administration—win back public trust that had been shaken by the election scandal and allegations that her relatives took kickbacks from "jueteng."

Holding back

Michael Wootton, chair of the British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said it was "a remarkable statement to hear" from Ms Arroyo, but he didn't think it would necessarily boost investor confidence.

Cora Guidote, presidential consultant on investment relations, said political stability was crucial to attract overseas investment. But she admitted that investors were "holding back" at the moment.

Economists said Ms Arroyo's latest announcement would only add to questions about governance and that markets would not be impressed.

Running away?

"If the husband is around to attend hearings on past indiscretions, that might have been a preferred strategy rather than sending him abroad which may be interpreted as running away," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore.

Rex Robles, a security analyst, said that by agreeing to let her husband leave, Ms Arroyo appeared to be weakening under pressure from her critics.

"She has become desperate in response to building pressures for her to quit," Robles said. "Obviously, her advisers wanted to clear a ray of sunshine in the midst of these scandals of election cheating and illegal gambling payoffs.

"But I think the sky has even darkened and threatening a heavy downpour or a storm," he said.

What's the connection

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ms Arroyo's announcement about her husband was "just a cosmetic move to elicit sympathetic emotional response in people's hearts... but not enough to atone for her offenses."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said they could not see the connection between Mike Arroyo's voluntary exile with Ms Arroyo's problem with charges of electoral fraud.

"The pressing issue today is the cheating in the last elections and the right of the President to govern the country. The decision to leave by Mr. Arroyo will not answer this issue," Escudero said.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal said banishing Mike Arroyo was not only "a diversionary tactic" but also a sign of guilt on the part of presidential relatives.

Diversion from real cause

"It is a pathetic move to divert the attention of the public from the real issue," Madrigal said. "Exile means guilt. The Filipino people deserve an explanation from the First Gentleman on the tapes, and Representatives Mikey and Iggy Arroyo [on jueteng]."

South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said Mike Arroyo should remain in the country and face the accusations against him.

"Instead of the First Gentleman leaving, all the government agencies that are investigating him should file cases. He should face these and not flee to America to indulge [in luxury]," Custodio said.

Not Las Vegas

Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said Ms Arroyo should consider joining her husband in the United States.

"She always says that the Lord put her in office. It is said in the Book of Matthew that what God has joined together, let no man put asunder. We humbly ask our President to perhaps entertain the idea of joining Mr. Arroyo. I just hope they don't go to Las Vegas," said Villanueva, son of Christian evangelist Eddie Villanueva, who lost in the 2004 presidential race. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip Tubeza, AP, AFP and Reuters*

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Makati's barangay halls to process tax payments in 4 minutes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MAKATI City residents can now settle their tax obligations in their own backyard.

If other cities offer refreshing drinks in well-ventilated—and even air-conditioned—waiting rooms for its taxpayers, Makati brings tax collectors closer to its communities.

Through Makati's computerized tax payment scheme, the city's taxpayers need only visit their barangay halls to settle their real property tax dues, City Hall announced yesterday.

And all it takes is four minutes.

"When local governments say they have computerized their operations, they mean replacing typewriters with computers. In Makati, when we say computerization, it means linking all frontline offices through a local network," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The high-tech tax payment scheme links Makati's treasury database and tax assessment and computation program to terminals placed in barangays. Treasury officials assigned to man the local computers could then process the tax payments through the hook-up.

"From a process that used to take at least one day, we have reduced transaction time to an average of four minutes," said Binay.

Before the implementation of the computerized payment system, City Hall said taxpayers would take almost the whole day to make their payments. The payment scheme was meant to encourage taxpayers to settle their dues early.

The computerized scheme, which had been initiated in three barangays, is currently in place in 11 barangays.

Residents of Barangay Bel-Air may make their tax payments on July 1, those from Barangay Dasmariñas on July 2, Forbes Park on July 5, Urdaneta on July 6, and San Lorenzo on July 7.

Those from Magallanes may pay their dues on July 8, Guadalupe Nuevo residents on July 9, San Antonio on July 11, Pio del Pilar residents on July 12, Poblacion taxpayers on July 13, and and those from Bangkal on July 14.

Payment centers in these barangays will process payments from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those who miss the remote tax processing may proceed to the Makati Treasury's main office at the Makati City Hall.

The computerized tax payment scheme is part of Makati's aim to implement paperless transactions in all its offices.

Traffic violators pay price

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MOTORISTS are paying a big price for violating traffic rules in Muntinlupa City.

In four months, the Muntinlupa Traffic Management Bureau (MTMB) collected roughly P6 million from traffic violators, said unit head Alexander Moldez in his report to Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

The report said that as of June 24, the bureau's average daily collection had reached P81,000.

It added that from Feb. 22 to June 24, fines collected were no less than P1.5 million per month.

Moldez said Muntinlupa City had consistently high collection since August last year after it gave more teeth to its Unified Traffic Code.

Strict enforcement

"There is a strict enforcement of the traffic codes," he said.

Moldez said the amount included fines paid by only 72 percent of traffic violators.

Of 13,094 licenses confiscated from violators, only 9,441 were redeemed.

Cases of obstruction were the most numerous, making up 29.5 percent of the violations. It was followed by infractions on the "no safety helmet" rule (18.3 percent).

Traffic violations, the records showed, have been committed mostly in the Alabang area, the gateway to Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon and Metro Manila, making it one of the busiest districts in the city.

LUNCH IS READY JOSEPH AGCAOILI
A mother prepares a lunch of clams gathered from Manila Bay. Fishing is the main source of livelihood for most Coastal Road residents.

POLLUTION REPORT

North Metro air dirtiest, says DENR

By Blanche S. Rivera

BREATHE in when you're down south; breathe out when you're up north.

Data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) show that northern Metro Manila is the most polluted part of the metropolis due mainly to traffic congestion.

The amount of pollutants in the air over Valenzuela and Congressional Avenue, between Quezon City and Caloocan, exceeded the acceptable standard, the DENR said.

"The north of Metro Manila is the most polluted," said air quality management chief Cesar Siador Jr. in a media briefing, citing the Environmental Management Bureau's 2004 report.

However, Siador pointed out that the entire metropolis for the past two years had breached the long-term acceptable level of particulate matter in the air, which is 90 ug/Ncm.

In 2003, Metro Manila had 156 ug/Ncm. This increased by five percent last year or 160 ug/Ncm.

"Most of these areas are traffic-oriented. It shows that the problem is really traffic. Few are caused by residential factors," Siador said.

He said air quality on Congressional Avenue had deteriorated since 2003 because of rerouting set by the Metro Manila Development Authority. Congressional Avenue has over 250 ug/Ncm.

Siador said buses, which used to ply another road, were already taking Congressional Avenue, where only tricycles used to ply.

Even the Edsa-Taft corner area was heavily polluted, with more than 200 ug/Ncm of particulate matter, the 2004 EMB data showed.

Valenzuela, on the other hand, is affected mostly by meteorological factors. The wind moves very slowly around Valenzuela, unlike in the south, where an open area allows the frequent dilution of pollutants.

Construction work on and near Edsa contributed much to the increase in the particulate matter in the air last year, Siador said.

Ex-Manila councilor in brawl

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FORMER Manila councilor was arrested the other night inside a restaurant in Malate for reportedly beating up a business associate.

Businessman Roland Sanchez has filed physical injury charges against Chiqui Ocampo, former councilor of Manila's fifth district, according to Western Police District Task Force Galugad head Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr.

Yanquiling said he was about to order dinner with another policeman and some government officials at the Manileño restaurant at about 9:00 p.m. when he heard loud noises.

Argument

Ocampo, who sat a few tables away from the policemen, was arguing with Sanchez about business.

"They were quarreling about their shares from the sale of the Cordon Bleu nightclub, which they both apparently owned," Yanquiling said in a phone interview.

He added that both appeared to have been drinking at the time.

Yanquiling said the argument later turned violent, sending the restaurant patrons scampering away.

"Ocampo has yet to file a counter-complaint against Sanchez," Yanquiling said.

Ocampo is the son of former Manila congressman Pablo Ocampo Sr. and the brother of Manila Rep. Sandy Ocampo.

Some mayors take neutral position

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SOME Metro Manila mayors have taken a wait-and-see attitude amid the admission and apology of President Macapagal-Arroyo in regard to the allegedly wiretapped conversation between her and elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad refused to comment on the President's apology Monday and the clamor of certain groups for her resignation.

"We remain silent here in Pasay. We are waiting for whatever will happen," the mayor said.

"We are just small people here," he added.

Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga also took a neutral stance while urging Filipinos to work together for the good of the nation.

He, too, did not want to comment on the President's apology and the calls for her resignation.

But Pateros Mayor Rosendo Capco was more vocal.

He said during the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) press conference yesterday that the President should be forgiven and must be given a chance to redeem herself.

"Let us all end destructive politics," he said.

Meanwhile, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, who belongs to Ms Arroyo's party, said he believed in the sincerity of Arroyo's apology.

"The President is asking for forgiveness and had confessed her lapses in decision making. This is something laudable," he said.

He added that he would support the President at this time.

But he stressed that forgiveness must come with concrete actions.

"The Filipinos are easy to forgive, but they must be able to see concrete reforms from the President," Fresnedi said.

New witness comes forward in director's killing

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ONE MORE witness but not much progress.

Another witness in the killing of television director Louis "Luigi" Santiago outside a Makati bar early this month has come forward, but only to confirm what police already know.

The Makati Police Department Criminal Investigation Division (MPD-CID) took down the statement of the witness the other night.

A source privy to the investigation said yesterday that the witness who came forward on Tuesday night was also a guest of V-bar, where Santiago and the shooter had just emerged before the shooting that occured on June 8.

During questioning by investigators, the witness also pointed to the man in a sketch of the killer.

The witness also confirmed that the frosted mocha Toyota Hi-Lux, which police seized from a village in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, was the vehicle used by the gunman.

"We have added his statement as evidence in our complaint against the suspect," said the source.

Late Friday afternoon, the MPD-CID filed charges of homicide, attempted homicide, and direct assault upon a person in authority against a suspect identified as a certain Oliver.

The complaint filed before the Makati City Prosecutor's Office carried three names of the suspect: Oliver Castro, Oliver Angeles, and Oliver Perez.

Case of body in van solved, says Taguig cop

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FALSE alarm.

Fear gripped residents in Western Bicutan, Taguig City last night when they saw a body inside what appeared to be an abandoned van parked close to Fort Bonifacio last night.

A resident reported to the Taguig City police that a dead man was found inside a L300 van, with plate number PJV-593, parked near Gate 3 of Fort Bonifacio at 10 p.m. Tuesday, according to P03 Alain Sigwa.

Time out

The residents thought the van had been abandoned by its driver, Sigwa told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"But the driver showed up later. It turned out that he just left the van so he could have dinner close by," he added.

The driver, Dennis Sorongon, said he and his aunt just passed by The Medical City hospital in Pasig City to claim the body of his uncle.

Police learned that Sorongon's 87-year-old uncle, Aurelio Sorongon, had suffered a stroke and died at the hospital.

Sorongon and his aunt were on their way to the Sepacio Valdez Funeraria Homes in Cavite when Sorongon decided to eat at a canteen along Western Bicutan, Sigwa said.

But police invited Sorongon to the city's criminal investigation office for questioning just the same before he and his aunt were released, Sigwa said.

Dumping area

"We had to look into the matter because the city had become a dumping area for dead bodies," he explained.

Sorongon was released at midnight yesterday after he presented pertinent documents from the hospital to the police, Sigwa said.

Let's forgive GMA

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's sin is comparable to a player who approached the referee or judge to ask if she was going to win while the scores were still being tallied.

In the case of GMA, she talked to Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano while the votes were still being counted.

It was an improper, immoral and shameful act. It was unsportsmanlike of her.

But she didn't commit an illegal act. Nowhere in the wiretapped conversation did she try to influence the outcome of the votes. She only asked the Comelec official if her lead over her strongest rival would be affected by provinces where votes still had to be counted.

That was what she apologized for.

Unless the opposition can show proof that she cheated in the presidential elections, let's forgive the woman for that moral lapse.

* * *

Although the citizenry has forgiven her, based on conversations in the workplace, coffee shops, and public gatherings, GMA has not seen the last of the discussion of her moral lapse.

The opposition and her critics will continue to hound her. They're trying to make actress Susan Roces, widow of defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., their rallying point.

The country, particularly the economy, will continue to suffer from all this trouble.

* * *

The President made a very wise move in allowing her husband, Mike Arroyo, to take a long vacation abroad.

Although I am saddened by the President's decision, it would be good for GMA's governance to make the First Gentleman disappear from the scene. Mike has become a lightning rod.

When Mike Arroyo departs, the poor will have lost a benefactor. If you would only come to know the guy, you'd like him. He's very kindhearted and charitable.

I've referred to Mike a number of young heart patients whose parents were poor, and he willingly helped them have surgery.

There was a retired Constabulary colonel whom I brought to the First Gentleman because his son had cancer. Mike Arroyo cheerfully helped. And the patient is now fully recovered.

Now, who will I turn to when poor people come to me for their medical needs?

* * *

The government is not taking care of our inventors and scientists.

That's the reason they go to developed countries where their talents and inventions are appreciated.

Dr. Carlos Almeda left the medical profession a long time ago to give vent to his genius for inventing weapons and its accessories.

Almeda is well known among gun and shooting enthusiasts because he has a shop in Tondo, Manila where he tinkers with all kinds of weapons, from the lowest .22 caliber pistol to the high-caliber 30.06 rifle.

One of Doc Almeda's inventions is a .45 caliber bullet that penetrates a level 3 bullet-proof vest. An ordinary .45 caliber bullet doesn't penetrate even the lowest-type level 1 vest.

Almeda has moved to Washington state because the US government had commissioned him to work on some of its weaponry. He's now busy crafting a mechanical train cart to carry a Trident missile inside a nuclear submarine.

Because of the war in Iraq, Almeda is doing brisk business inventing new accessories for rifles and cannons.

Perhaps when we get rich and can afford to make weapons of our own, our government can ask Almeda to come back and help in the country's defense system.

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon-Day 9 Highlights; 8 a.m. (r-6 p.m.); Men's and Ladies Singles, Quarterfinals; 12:30 p.m. (r); Ladies Semifinals; 7 p.m.; STAR Sports—The year's third grand slam event nears its end.

BASEBALL: MLB; 10 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Catch the featured game of the day.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

ERRATUM

The UPMG (United Print Media Group) Special Screening of the "War of the Worlds" will be at Glorietta 4, Cinema 3, July 1, 05 at 7:30 p.m.

Pacquiao, Murad settle out of court

FILIPINO ring idol Manny Pacquiao is a "free man" again.

This came yesterday after Pacquiao and his American promoter Murad Muhammad settled out of court barely two weeks into the trial of the landmark $33 million suit filed by the Filipino last April.

"Everybody is happy," said Pacquiao's lead lawyer Judd Burstein. "Murad Muhammad settled with Manny and gave him back his freedom. He also settled for an undisclosed amount to cover court fees."

Boxing experts called it a "technical knockout" win by Pacquiao over Muhammad, who "threw in the towel" before an eight-man jury could issue a verdict as directed by judge Loretta Preska of the Southern District Court of New York.

"This is a triumph for all of boxing," said Pacquiao, who sued his former handler under the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act authored by Sen. John McCain to protect boxers from unfair dealings by managers and promoters.

PACQUIAO

MUHAMMAD

Aside from preventing Muhammad from getting away with the TV pay-per-view proceeds from Pacquiao's losing fight with Eric Morales recently, the American's so-called air-tight promotional grip on Pacquiao which started in 2001 has been voided.

M&M Sports, which Muhammad heads, also agreed to dismiss the suit it filed against Pacquiao's new management team which included Keith Davidson, Shelly Finkel, Nicholas Khan and trainer Freddie Roach.

Muhammad, however, saw the result under a different light.

"The case was settled amicably. I decided (there's) no need to fight. Manny will go his way, we (Rod Nazario and Murad) will go ours. We will go on with our lives. We will find another Pacquiao or even better. I will continue to build another Pacquiao, continue to help Filipino boxers and all Asian boxers if they want my help. I wish Manny all the luck. I feel he should go on to be as successful as he can and represent the Philippines with honor. May God be with him," he said.

But Pacquiao's former manager Marty Elorde, who together with US lawyer Sydney Hall had lodged a separate case against Muhammad, said he is pursuing their case although he's not sure of what will happen next.

"Parts of Manny's case are similar to our case. Manny is still part of our case, unfortunately," Elorde said in an interview yesterday.

Boxing website Boxingtalk, which first reported the out-of-court settlement, said that, as a result of the decision, Pacquiao is now a promotional free agent.

Finkel said they are now working for a September fight for Pacquiao against a soon-to-be-named opponent in the US.

"I am very happy that they reached a settlement. We helped in a small way by providing copies of contracts. We in the GAB are very happy for our champion Manny Pacquiao. We will always be here for him. Her Excellency I am sure is also happy with this development," commented Games and Amusements Board chair Eric Buhain. *Salven L., Lagumbay, contributor*

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PBA to ease draft rules on college stars

By June Navarro

HERE'S good news to collegiate players seeking to join the Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft.

EALA

The pro league has asked the University Athletic Association of the Philippines and National Collegiate Athletic Association to relax their eligibility rules on players eyeing slots in this year's freshman lottery.

Commissioner Noli Eala has assured both leagues that the student players who will be drafted won't be reporting to their ballclubs until the school season is over.

"The teams will not offer a contract until the player finishes his collegiate stint," said Eala, who had sent a formal communication to the UAAP board and the NCAA management committee.

"The player will not be allowed to practice with the team which drafted him until after the collegiate season," Eala added.

The commissioner has already spoken with Fr. Edwin Lao of Letran, this year's NCAA host, and still seeking an audience with the UAAP officials.

"It will benefit both leagues and at the same time, help the players who want to widen their economic opportunities in the future," said Eala. "I hope they (NCAA and UAAP) would agree to the proposal."

Eala pointed out, however, that the PBA eligibility rules on draft aspirants will stay. Rookie candidates should be at least 23 years of age, have already earned a high school diploma in 2001 at the latest and must have completed a certain number of units in college.

The deadline for application on homegrown amateur players is July 15, a month before the Aug. 15 PBA rookie annual draft set at the Sta. Lucia Realty mall.

"Basically, the PBA teams will only secure the rights on the player once the collegiate season is over," said Eala.

"We will not touch the player until after the season and once approved, hopefully it will be a regular agreement between the PBA and the collegiate leagues," he added.

POOR OFFICIATING

Game 4 referees get indefinite suspension

INDEFINITE suspensions were slapped yesterday on the three referees who poorly officiated Game 4 of the semifinal series between Shell and Talk 'N Text in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last Sunday.

Joey Calungcaguin won't be calling any of the games in the title series between the TNT Phone Pals and the San Miguel Beermen beginning tomorrow but there is a chance, according to the PBA technical committee, that either Mario Montiel or Throngy Aldabas may still be tapped to work in the championship playoffs.

"We are not closing the possibility that the referee who committed fewer mistakes [among the three] may be reinstated in the finals series," said PBA technical chief Perry Martinez.

Upon review of the game tape, Martinez said a member of the officiating group had "lesser mistakes" compared to the glaring error committed by Calungcaguin.

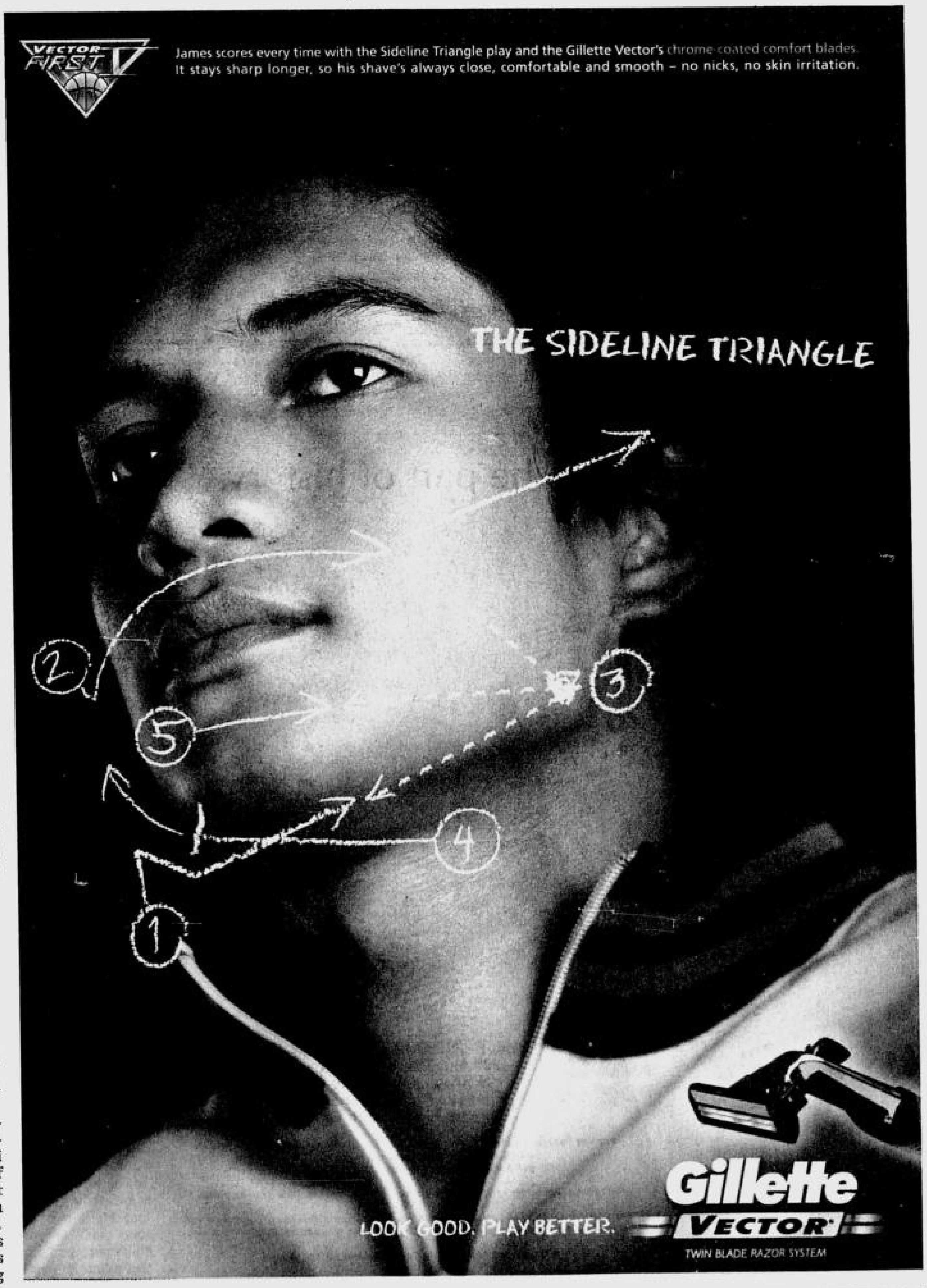
Calungcaguin made the dubious call that led to the disqualification of Shell import Ajani Williams in the closing minutes of overtime in the game Talk 'N Text eventually won, 96-91, to reach the title series against San Miguel.

Martinez said the officials veered away from the league's guidelines on officiating during the crucial stages of the game.

Shell questioned the offensive foul on Williams and team manager Bobby Kanapi later blasted the game officials and called for an investigation of the referees.

Informed of the suspensions, Kanapi said: "I abide and respect the decision of the PBA. I thanked them for their swift action on the matter."

Meanwhile, San Miguel Beer fans are being asked to wear red in the entire Finals series against Talk 'N Text. *June Navarro*



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Dacudao fires course record 65, paces Am Tour by 4

CAGAYAN de Oro—Former national player Louie Dacudao exploited the perfect playing conditions with a course-record seven-under-par 65 yesterday that put him on top by four strokes in the opening round of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club here.

The 31-year-old Dacudao, a member of the Del Monte squad who is based in Davao, tore the mountainside course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. with seven birdies, five of them in the back nine, from the tough championship tees to assume command in this 72-hole competition.

Dacudao birdied the last three holes and four of the last five to surpass the course record set last year by professional Cassius Casas. His other birdies came on Nos. 3, 7 and 12.

Erwin Vinluan, an entry from Manila, gunned down six birdies but still found himself four back after a 69 as the burly power-hitter made three bogeys. Tied with Vinluan was another hometown bet Joel Opaco.

Ondoy Mondilla was a far fourth at 74, Tristan Tabanas was all alone at 75 and Tommy Tabanas had a 77 in the event also backed by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

The Miñoza brothers, Paul and Ben, struggled with 78s like Lino Retuerto and found themselves staring at a huge 13-stroke deficit.

Jud Yuzon was the early Class C leader after a 79. He was three shots ahead of Nolan Quimpo, Luis Pineda and Roger Tan heading into tomorrow's final round.

"Louie's been playing very well lately and I wasn't really surprised he broke the course record today," said Clifford Celdran, general manager of Pueblo.

Division champions will advance to the national grand finals, the culmination of a five-leg qualifier at Summit Point in Batangas next year. Trophies and Samsung cellular phones and appliances will be awarded to the top finishers and Samsung appliances will be raffled off during the awarding ceremonies.

Taiwanese pockets RP int'l 9-ball title

TAIWANESE Yang Chin-shun ended Leonardo "Dodong" Andam's giant-killing run with a 15-10 victory last night and ruled the 5th Motolite Battle of Champions Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

The win was worth $20,000 (P1.1 million) for Yang, dubbed the "Taiwanese Assassin." Andam settled for $10,000 (P.56 million).

Andam, a veteran campaigner, averted an all-Taiwanese finale by rallying from two racks down to win, 11-9, against world pool runner-up Chang Pei-wei earlier.

The Filipino cleaned up the mess left by Chang on the 19th frame to reach the hill and ran out the next to go over it and set up a race-to-15 titular duel with Yang.

Both Andam and Yang were undefeated heading into the finals.

Chang, runner-up in last year's world pool championship, had a chance to go three-up after a nice break on the 15th with the score at 8-6 on his favor.

But a miss on the pink four, and moments later, on the orange five, allowed Andam to regain his rhythm and close in at 7-8.

Andam held his serve on the 16th to level and the two traded run outs to forge a 9-9 count.

Yang, on the other hand, bucked a shaky start to win pulling away over local bet Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, 11-5, in the front end of the semifinal matches.

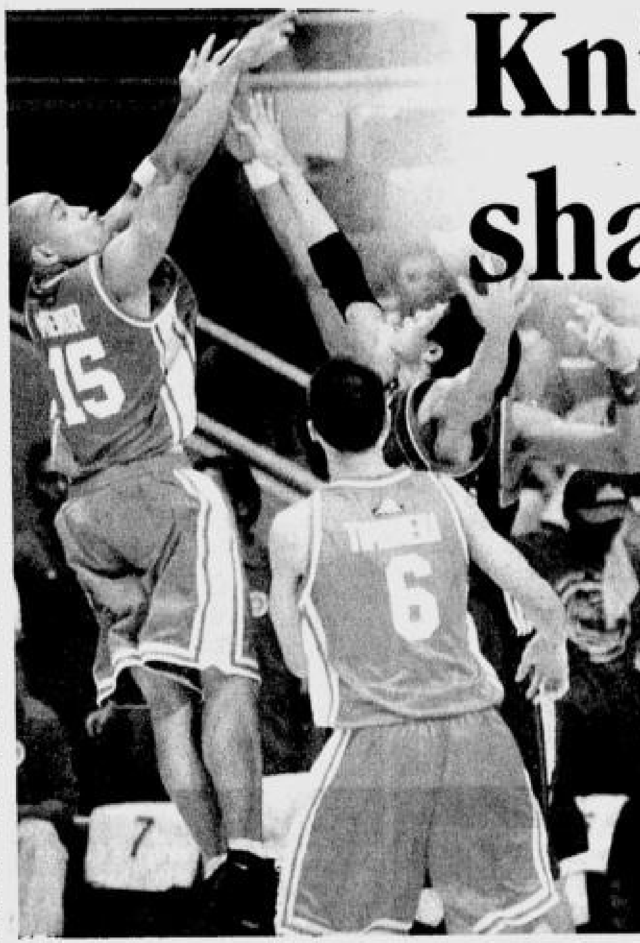
After losing on his first two breaks and falling 0-2 and 1-3, Yang held serve the rest of the way and broke Luat on five occasions.

Yang's mastery of jump shot spelled the difference in the match loaded with safety shots.

"Parang wala nang safe *kay Yang dahil sa* jump shot," said Luat. *"Bale-wala kahit maganda 'yung* placing *mo dahil patatalunin lang n'ya sa* cover *'yung* cue ball."

Fittingly, the turning point of the match came with Yang pocketing a jump shot from a tough angle off a Luat safety on the 11th frame. It was a length-of-the-table shot with the cue ball near the left rail and behind two colored balls.

That gave Yang a 7-4 lead.



SAN Beda's Rogemar Menor (15) fires a jumper over Letran defenders in their NCAA game yesterday. RYAN LIM

Knights, Cards share 'NC' lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

RELYING on a balanced offensive, the Letran Knights outclassed the San Beda Lions, 63-54, to take a 2-0 lead in the 81st NCAA season yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome

JP Alcaraz headed the Knights' charge with 13 points, while Jonathan Aldave and Boyet Bautista chipped in 12 points apiece.

"I commend my veteran players, they followed my instructions," said coach Louie Alas, citing the strong performances of Bautista and Aaron Aban.

The Mapua Cardinals joined Letran on top by turning to rookie Kelvin dela Peña for the second straight time.

With Dela Peña scoring all of his 15 points in the first half, the Cardinals jumped out to a huge lead in the second quarter and held on to a 66-52 victory over the Jose Rizal Bombers.

"I have no problem with his offense, he has all the moves," said coach Horacio Lim, referring to the 21-year-old Fil-Canadian.

Dela Peña, who also top-scored with 17 points in Mapua's opening-day win against San Sebastian, added seven rebounds. Senior swingman Joferson Gonzales contributed 14 points.

It was the second lopsided loss for the Bombers, who absorbed a severe 32-point beating, 79-47, against the St. Benilde Blazers in the season opener. The Lions also fell to 0-2.

The Knights pulled away from a tight 18-14 contest by closing the second quarter with a 15-5 outburst for a 33-19 halftime advantage.

When Yousif Aljamal fueled a Lions' comeback that cut the margin to 35-27, Aban took charge, padding the Knights' lead to 46-33 in the third period.

Maintaining their strong shooting performance, the Knights opened the fourth quarter with seven unanswered points for a 20-point cushion, 56-36.

Aljamal led San Beda with 11 points and 12 rebounds. However, Lions leader Jerome Paterno again proved to be a non-factor, scoring only two points for the second straight game.

The Cardinals waxed hot at the perimeter, drilling four straight triples for an early 20-point buffer, 39-19, in the second period.

Even as the Bombers trimmed the deficit to 11 points, 50-39, the Cardinals responded with a 14-5 spurt capped by Gonzales' back-to-back treys to put the lead back up at 64-44.

The scores:

First game

MAPUA 66—Dela Peña 15, Gonzales 14, Pascual 8, Co 6, Del Rosario 6, Migraso 4, Tiongco 3, Gorospe 3, Mazo 3, Sumalinog 2, Malgapo 2, Veranga 0, Ng 0, Salud 0.

JRU 52—Tala 16, Mañego 10, Dedicatoria 7, Jorge 5, Domancas 4, Golena 3, San Luis 2, Yuzon 2, Reyes 2, Japson 1, Fenequito 0, Magtahao 0, Sena 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 46-27, 50-35, 66-52

RP cage campers learn new lessons

A FIVE-MAN team recently flew home from the Nike All-Asia Basketball Camp in Beijing, China—enriched with valuable lessons of new basketball technology and armed with the confidence that on this side of the world, Filipinos can be at par with the region's best.

Nike Summer League's most valuable player Bjorn Casibang and Gian Chiu, John Murphy Raymundo and Anjoe Latonio, together with coach Nomar Isla of the Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals, underwent five days of intensive training in the camp at the Beijing University.

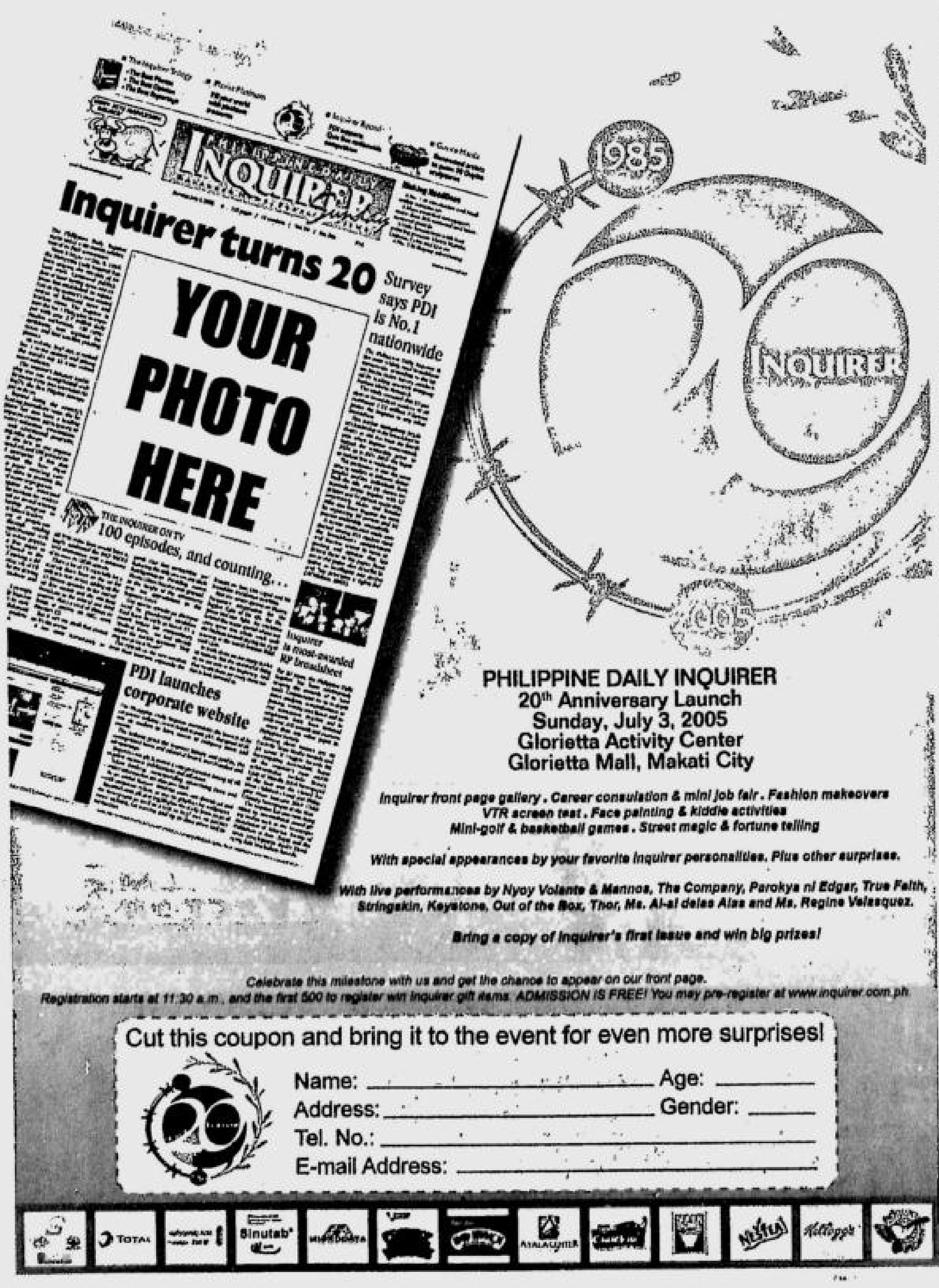
The five pitted guts and skills with the best and brightest young basketball athletes and coaches from across the Asia Pacific in the Nike All-Asia Basketball Camp, which continues to offer a unique opportunity to sharpen talent through coaching, training and competition.

"I'm proud of the boys," said Isla, champion coach of the Generals in the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) and the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA). *"Talagang nakipagsabayan sila sa mga* young players from all over Asia."

Of the four, Isla was most impressed with the 5-foot-9 Raymundo, who despite his size, was able to excel in all of the drills and competition that the teeners took part in.

"He impressed the coaches there," said Isla. "And of course, Gian was remarkable. He's 6-foot-8, but he scored several times against taller players like 7-foot-1 Wu Tai-Hao of Taiwan."

You're invited to be part of history.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Wilcon vs Star in final

WILCON Builders and Philippine Star fashioned out contrasting victories last Sunday in the semis of the 4th Burlington Friendship Cup at the Phil Buddhacare Academy Gym to arrange a title showdown on July 3.

The Wilcon squad managed by Bobot Ong and coached by Rommel Medina routed Memory Magic, 81-57, while Phil. Star of Miguel Belmonte tripped dethroned champion GNC, 77-70.

The Starmen relied on the heroics of Ver Roque who made nine points including a crucial four point play in the last quarter out of a total of 15 points to anchor the team of playing coach Rene Recto.

With two minutes remaining in the game, Roque who was nursing a fever that day buried a triple from the left side of the court with a foul to boot. The shot broke a 65-65 count that allowed Phil Star to go up by four points as Roque converted the bonus free throw.

Roque then combined with Mario Geocada and Gerald Ortega on a 9-5 run to finish off GNC.

In the Wilcon win, Jomar Viado, Romualdo Intalan III and Jevlin Cabrigas starred for the Builders as they contributed 12, 11 and 11 points apiece.

AF3 stars (from left) John O'Hara of Ireland (second placer), James Winslow (winner) and Rodolfo Avila (third placer) in the AF3 sixth leg in Guangdong, China.

AF3 Grand Prix makes race stars

LIVING up to its mission to create racing heroes, the Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix series will only get bigger in the coming years.

This is no mere drumbeating by the people running the affairs of the Philippine-based racing group but an assessment put forward by some of the international drivers competing in the nation-hopping series that recently completed its second stop in Guangdong, China.

James Winslow of England and Macau drivers Rodolfo Avila and Jo Rosa Merszei, although newcomers in the four-year series, recently heaped praises on the circuit and the organization behind it, saying it's at par with AF3 races in Europe.

"It doesn't get the recognition it deserves, partly because it's only been around for four years," said Winslow. "But I think it's at par with many British events back home."

"I'm surprised with the quality of competition here. AF3 is definitely not getting the credit it deserves," added Winslow of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, who scored a breakthrough win in the sixth leg of the series at the 4.30-km Zhuhai International Circuit

Avila and Merszei, veterans of the European circuit, were particularly impressed with the quality of competition, the organization and management of the AF3.

"It's not only more affordable than racing in Europe, it also provides tough competition," said Avila, a former Asian Formula Renault 2003 champion driving for the Christian Jones Motorsport team of last year's AF3 champion, Christian Jones of Australia.

"The way they organize things here, the media exposure, the kind of competition the AF3 offers, this is a big boost to Asian drivers like me," said Merszei, who finished ninth in a field of 14 in Guangdong in his debut with the Fujitsu-Ten Toyota Team Tom's squad.

Responding to the accolade, AF3 chairman Ed Pena, who has expertly steered the Asian F3 through perilous waters, encouraging international drivers to take part, said they are slowly but surely succeeding in their drive to produce future Formula One drivers.

Lady Archers, Tigresses give finals preview

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs San Sebastian
5 p.m.—UST vs La Salle

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and La Salle clash today in what could be a preview of their duel for the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference crown at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Tigresses and the Lady Archers are likely to come up with new plays and combinations they could use in a bid to surprise each other when the finals is held beginning July 4.

The championship, a best-of-three affair, gives way to the World Volleyball Grand Prix slated July 1-3.

"Of course, we'll play as hard, *pero* I'd like to give some of my players a chance to play," said UST mentor August Sta. Maria, who steered the Tigresses to the first conference crown over the Lady Archers in the inaugural staging of this event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza last year.

"I might rest some of my players and allow some of my new players to play," said La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus, who will also handle the RP women's squad seeing action in the 23rd Manila Southeast Asian Games slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

The Taft-based tossers got back at the Tigresses in the second conference finals, thus making their third finals meeting truly a series to watch.

Leaning on gutsy plays by the power-hitting troika of Roxanne Pimentel, Mary Jean Balse and Joyce Pano, UST edged a hard-fighting San Sebastian College, 25-13, 20-25, 27-25, 27-25 to complete the finals cast.

La Salle was the first to seal the first berth into the championships when it smothered arch-rival Ateneo, 25-15, 29-27, 25-19, with its own lethal trio of Michelle Carolino, Maureen Penetrante and Manilla Santos doing most of the damage.

The Lady Eagles (2-3) and the Lady Stags (0-5) clash at 3 p.m. in another non-bearing contest. The two will again play each other on Monday in a knockout match for third place in the event backed by Accel, Mikasa, Dunkin' Donuts, IBC-13 and Jemah Television.

World Grand Prix

RYAN LIM

COACHES and team captains show unity during the press conference of the World Volleyball Grand Prix yesterday.

World Grand Prix volley up tomorrow

By Marc Anthony Ryes

FOUR of the world's superpowers in women's volleyball are in town hoping to score points that would give them a crack at the FIVB World Grand Prix next month.

Players from Cuba, Italy, Netherlands and Thailand were introduced to the media yesterday in between their twice-a-day practice at the Philsports and the La Salle Greenhills gym.

They start smashing it out in the third leg of the Grand Prix tomorrow at Philsports with heavily favored Cuba taking on Thailand and Italy squaring off with Netherlands in the twinbill that starts at 5 p.m.

The event, being held simultaneously with the other two legs in Seoul and Macau, will run until Sunday. The Grand Finals will be held in Senchai, Japan, late next month.

Cuba is tipped to dominate the event with its strong lineup starring standouts of the team that won the bronze medal in last year's Athens Olympics.

Some of the veterans of the team which won the Grand Prix finals in 2000 also held here, are also in the lineup—Yumilka Ruiz Luaces, Zoila Barros Fernandez, Ana Ibis Fernandez Valle and Marta Sanchez Salfran.

Reinforcing them are young stars led by 6-foot-4 Rosil Calderon Diaz, 6-foot-3 Nancy Carillo dela Paz and equally tall Yaima Ortiz Harro and Daimi Ramirez Echevarria. Others in the team are Liana Mesa Luaces, Annira Munos Carrazana and Marbeleis Martinez Adlum.

Netherlands has its own twin towers in Chaine Staelens (6-foot-5) and veteran Francien Huurman (6-foot-4), who last year ranked third among Grand Prix players. The team failed to make it to Athens, but bounced back to capture the European championships.

Alvarez paces rookies derby

PUREFOODS' James Yap has a lot of catching up to do to deny Shell's Rich Alvarez the Rookie of the Year plum.

While the Most Valuable Player award is still a three-cornered fight, the energetic Shell power-forward has pulled away from Yap in the statistical race for the freshman accolade after the semifinal round.

From an already huge 184.8 statistical-point margin in the elimination round, Alvarez padded his lead to 1,183.8 statistical points as against Yap's 953.1 SPs after the Turbochargers booted out the TJ Hotdogs for the second straight conference in the quarterfinals.

This season's top rookie pick also finished the eliminations with 1,113.6 SPs, good for 18th in the MVP race while Yap had 928.8 SPs and was no where in the top 30 players of the season after three conferences.

After the Turbochargers were booted out in four games by the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in their best-of-five semifinals, Alvarez stepped a notch higher in the battle for the season's most coveted accolade, overtaking Ginebra's Sunday Salvacion and moving up to 17th overall.

But the statistics from actual games only represent 30 percent of the process. Voting takes 70 percent with 30 percent allotted for sports media, 30 to players and 10 to a committee composed of ABC-5, the Philippine Sportswriters Association and Scoop representatives.

Mark Caguioa of Barangay Ginebra has gained the lead in the MVP race with 1882.9 SPs, towing teammate Eric Menk, who captured player of the conference honors and the Finals MVP in the last two conferences, with 1,824.8 SPs before the Kings got eliminated in the wildcard phase.

Willie Miller of Talk 'N Text and teammate Jimmy Alapag had 1,764.6 and 1,577.9 SPs, respectively, while Rodney Santos of Ginebra landed fifth after accumulating 1,517.2 SPs.

Ultimate Showdown: La Salle-Ateneo Legends

THE BEST Varsity cagers from the past will relive their fabled school rivalry when the Fil-Oil-Flying-V "Ultimate Showdown: La Salle-Ateneo Basketball Classics" reels off on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The event, organized by the La Salle Green Hills High School '84 and Ateneo de Manila University College '82 and backed by Fil-Oil and Flying-V with support from Total, will stage the Legends game featuring star players from the '60s to the early '80s.

Coached by Chito Narvasa, the Ateneo Legends will be led by Chito Afable, Jimmy Alabanza, Rene Banzon, Joy Carpio, Joy Cleofas, Danny Daez, Felix Flores, Jojo Gamboa, Fritz Gaston, Boysie Henares, Boy Ijares, Jonel Ladaban, Jojo Lastimosa, Ogie Narvasa, Ricky Palou, Tito Panlilio, Jimmy Tioseco, Bombi Sevilla, Pons Valdez and Steve Watson.

The La Salle Legends, bannered by Lim Eng Beng, Jong Uichico, Tonichi Yturri, Aldo Perez, Gabby Velasco, Virgil Villavicencio, Joaqui Garcia, Alex Marquez, Peter Ley, Boy Manguerra, Edu Manzano, Gabby Liwag, Eric Afable, Elmo Tong, Freddie Martelino, Alex Malixi, Dennis Mendoza, Joel Uichico, Kenneth Yap, and Lope Leonio, will be coached by Joaqui Trillo.

Players in the mid '80s to 2004 will clash in the All-Star game. For inquiries, contact the LSGHAA at 726-6339, DLSU Sports Development Office at 526-4244, and ADMU at 426-6001 loc. 4191.

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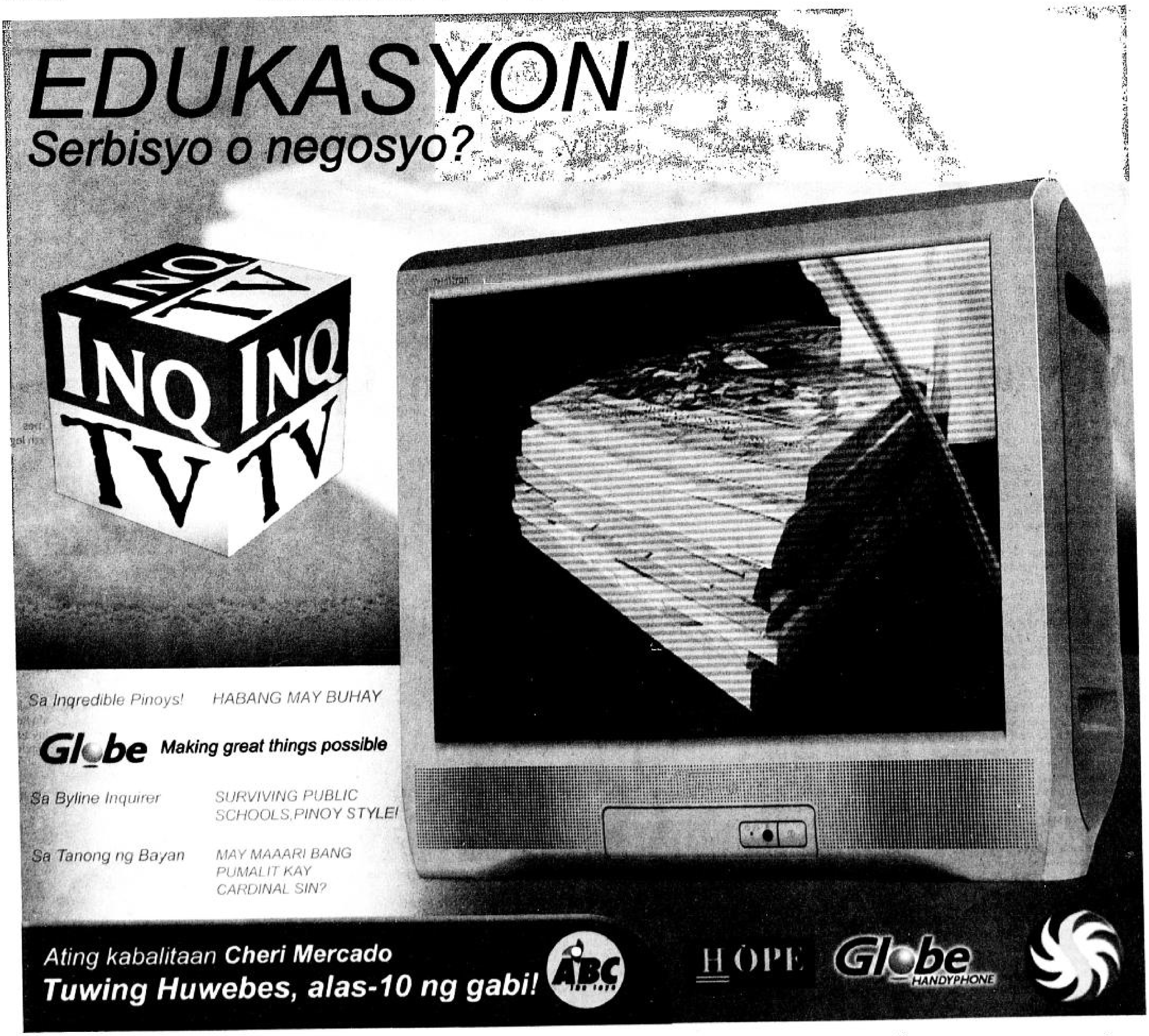
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Search for top 5 MRRS drivers on

THE FILIPINOS' love for the fast lane—and fast cars—again came to the fore with the launching of the Marlboro Red Racing School recently at the Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard.

Now on its third year, the one-of-a-kind event hopes to draw a record 300,000 entries—or about 50,000 more than last year—after a one-month intensive "bar hops" and promotional campaigns in Marlboro's "key accounts"—supermarkets, stores, malls, etc. nationwide.

A total of 110 finalists will be selected from those who filled out the MRRS forms. Together with the 10 drawn in last Friday's launch, they will make up the 120 finalists who will attend a two-day activity of comprehensive classroom training, hands-on driving sessions and team-building sessions.

Only the top five highest scorers will be selected to form the Philippine contingent that will participate in the Marlboro Red Racing School scheduled in September next year at the Varano and Fiorano Circuits in Italy.

Philip Morris Philippine Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) managing director Chris Nelson said the MRRS promo gives customers a chance to drive some of the fastest racing machines ever built—Alfa Romeo GTA, Ferrari F360 Challenge and a custom-built three-seater Formula 1 car.

"The Marlboro Red Racing School is just one of the many exciting events that Philip Morris Philippines has prepared for its loyal patrons. Following the success of the Marlboro Adventure Team promo just a few months back, we now gear up for this occasion to once again thank our friends, partners, and supporters for their continued support to our leading brand," Nelson said.

Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista said the Filipinos' love for adventure and speed will again be tested to the limits with the launching of the event, which officially started on June 20 and will end on July 31.

Evangelista added that the event does not discriminate on gender. Since it started in 2003, there has always been a woman qualifier in the top five.

Last year's grand finalists, who are set to go to Italy this September, even included two women in Princess Erica Esguerra and Christina delos Santos.

The other members of the team are Vincent Tempongko, systems manager for Hewlett-Packard; Renan Ponce Morales, a professional rider, and John Marcelo, a former national jet ski champion and brother of the late 1992 Indianapolis 500 Formula Kart champion Jovy.

SPORTSWATCH

Ang, Magnaye gain in JVC Open jrs

KELVIN Tim Ang of Inflight/PNP and Peter Magnaye of PNP/JLTC rolled over their respective rivals in easy fashions to advance to the last 16 in the boys' singles of the junior division of the 2005 JVC Open Badminton Championships in Day 3 of the week-long qualifiers at PowerSmash Tuesday. The 16-year-old Ang, one of the country's most promising players, swamped Kelvin Panganiban of Mighty Bulilits with a power game and cruised to a 15-4, 15-1 rout while Magnaye thumped Timothy Jaducana of JGN Christian School, 15-0, 15-3. For details, visit the event's website at www.jvcbadminton.com.

RP pugs off to Japan

FORMER WBC flyweight champ Malcolm Tuñacao and reigning OPBF minimumweight kingpin Rodel Mayol depart for Japan tomorrow for what will be two sets of three-month training stint in their quest for possible title cracks in the near future. Both Tuñacao and Mayol are scheduled to leave tomorrow. Tuñacao (17-1-2, 12 KOs) is slated to face Japanese Ryoichi Hidaka on July 18. The undefeated Mayol (21-0, 16 KOs) will prime up for a possible defense of his OPBF tiara against the Japanese mandatory challenger before a possible crack at the WBC title being held by Japan's Katsunari Takayama.

RP golfers tune up for SEAG

THE NATIONAL golf team begins its preparation and training for the Southeast Asian Games in earnest with its mainstays set to compete in three tournaments abroad starting with the Taiwan Amateur Golf Championships. Gene Bondoc and Boyet Saragoza have been tapped by the National Golf Association of the Philippines to spearhead the country's bid in the five-day tournament. Play then shifts from medal to match on the third day. Anya Tanpinco and Tracy Locsin see action in the women's event where the top 32 placers after the two-round stroke play tournament will advance to the match play.

Metro Monitor tops duckpin tilt

METRO Monitor nipped early favorite Journal Blue Saturday to capture the 13th Annual Duckpin Bowling Tournament at the Marketplace Bowling Center in Mandaluyong City. Metro Monitor playing coach Rodolfo "Ompong" Esguerra, a director of the Media Sports Club (MSC), said his bowlerswere just lucky. Members of the Metro Monitor Bowling Team are Crispin Espiel, Dorothea F. Ilano, Emil T. Gepte, Criselde Garcia, Benny delos Santos, Dominador Manlutac Jr., Arthur Estrella, Rollindo Batuigas and Mary Anne Bibit. Team sponsors included columnist Vic C. Reyes, businessman-civic leader Clemente Sy and restaurant manager Ernesto "Nestor" So. The event was held in cooperation with Coca Cola Export International and Jollibee.

Wimbledon
Williams vs

VENUS Williams celebrates her victory against Mary Pierce. REUTERS

WIMBLEDON, England—Back in the Wimbledon semifinals, defending champion Maria Sharapova giggled at her good fortune.

The 18-year-old Russian benefited from two lucky bounces at the end Tuesday and advanced by beating compatriot Nadia Petrova, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

Sharapova's opponent Thursday will be two-time champion Venus Williams, who reached her first Grand Slam semifinal in two years by beating Mary Pierce, 6-0, 7-6 (10). Williams, bidding for her fifth major title and her first since 2001, overcame five set points in the tiebreaker to eliminate Pierce.

"I feel like I deserve to be in the semifinal," Williams said. "I feel like when I play my best, I'm still a step ahead for sure."

Sharapova was struggling to serve out the final game in her quarterfinal when she clipped the net on consecutive points—and won both. The first allowed her to save the only break point she faced.

With a laugh

"I told the ball to hit the net and roll over," she said with a laugh. "That comes with experience. I thanked the fairy for taking the ball and bringing it over the net."

The other semifinal will match top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, the 1999 champion, against third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo.

Davenport finished with an ace to eliminate US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, 7-6 (1), 6-3. Mauresmo reached the semifinals for the third time in four years by beating Anastasia Myskina, 6-3, 6-4.

Sharapova, who lost just 17 games in the first four rounds, survived two close sets in a baseline battle with the eighth-seeded Petrova. There were only three break points, and just one converted—by Sharapova for a 2-0 lead in the second set.

When Petrova sent a forehand long on the first match point, the second-seeded Sharapova let loose her familiar shriek, then happily stretched her arms skyward as if doing calisthenics.

She extended her grass-court winning streak to 22 matches.

"Finishing off the matches is tough," Sharapova said. "It gave me shivers in my body. It's just so good to be in the semis again."

Among a Grand Slam record four Russian women in the quarterfinals, Sharapova was the lone winner. She has yet to lose a set and has been broken only once in 44 service games.

Men's quarters

The men's quarterfinals are Wednesday. Two-time defending champion Roger Federer plays No. 21-seeded Fernando Gonzalez, and No. 2 Andy Roddick faces frequent practice partner Sebastien Grosjean.

The biggest upset of the tournament continued to be the mostly dry weather, and the women's quarterfi-

Rich is it

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

FROM all indications, Rich Alvarez is a cinch to win the Rookie of the Year award. The power forward from Shell leads his rivals in virtually all departments as per the latest official tabulations of the Philippine Basketball Association. Statistics don't lie: Rich Alvarez is it.

But wait a minute. Something's cooking somewhere.

What's this talk I hear about a group trying to dethrone Alvarez and installing in his place James Yap?

I cite a report from Valentin Dakuykoy, my legman of nearly two decades, about a dinner intended for some of my colleagues that was supposedly hosted by James Yap and Kris Aquino.

"When was it held?"

"Last Monday, sir," said VD.

"Where?"

"Pantalan, by the Manila Bay, sir," said VD.

"OK, OK," I said. "But then, what's wrong with James and Kris hosting a dinner for my colleagues? James and Kris are sweethearts anyway and are set to get married soon, if we go by the pronouncements of Kris. Maybe, Kris thought the dinner would be a getting-to-know-you thing. You know, she's marrying a basketball player with the makings of a superstar."

"Well, I just thought something deeper than that could be the reason behind the hosting of the dinner, sir," VD said.

I knew what he meant.

"OK, OK," I said. "For now, keep it to yourself. You can go now. Thanks."

Like Rich Alvarez, James Yap is also a rookie.

Like Rich Alvarez, James Yap is also good and is a consistent first stringer for his team, Purefoods.

But unlike Rich Alvarez, James Yap isn't even near the top of the statistical ladder.

Performance-wise, Rich Alvarez is way ahead of the pack of rookies contesting the Rookie of the Year award.

He was a major force in Shell's amazing, if not totally unbelievable, advance to the semifinals, playing key roles in the four straight victories scored by the Turbo Chargers against Sta. Lucia and Purefoods.

For a ninth-ranked team like Shell to make it to the Magic 4 and losing a crucial semifinal game against Talk 'N Text in a poorly officiated match that resulted in the suspension of the three referees that worked the contest—why, that should douse all doubts about Rich Alvarez's worth as this year's Rookie of the Year honoree.

In that game alone against TNT on Sunday, Rich Alvarez buried a jaw-dropping triple at crunch time and were it not for the dubious calls called on Shell in the ensuing plays, who knows there might have been a Game 5.

In choosing the Rookie of the Year as well as the Most Valuable Player every season, the verdict of media usually comes in big and, at times, becomes the swing votes.

Thus, this early, I see a runaway victory for Rich Alvarez. He leads the

Milwaukee makes Aussie Bogut No. 1 pick

NEW YORK—It sure was a great day for Andrew Bogut. And not a bad night for the NCAA champions from North Carolina.

Bogut, a 7-foot (2.13-meter) center from Australia, was chosen No. 1 Tuesday night in the NBA draft by the Milwaukee Bucks, becoming the first player in five years with US college experience to be drafted No. 1 overall.

Four players from North Carolina were chosen among the first 14 picks on a night when the usual avalanche of trades was only a trickle by the time the first round ended.

The 20-year-old Bogut, who played two seasons at Utah and was the college player of the year, straightened his tie, adjusted his suit jacket and took a deep breath in the moments before commissioner David Stern summoned him to the podium onstage at Madison Square Garden. When his name was called, Bogut raised a clenched right fist.

The NBA champion San Antonio Spurs selected French forward Ian Mahinmi at No. 28. He was one of seven international players to be chosen in the first round. Players from Slovenia, Serbia-Montenegro, Turkey, Belgium, France and Croatia were a large contingent of foreign players chosen in the second round.

"Basketball is a global game, just like soccer is a global game," Bogut said. "You see the Manu Ginobilis and Yao Mings of the world. We can play the game in every country."

Milwaukee had been debating whether to take Bogut or North Carolina small forward Marvin Williams with the franchise's first overall No. 1 pick since 1994, when the Bucks selected Glenn Robinson. In the end, the lure of a versatile, athletic 7-footer with Olympic experience was too much to pass up.

"I was confident, but I wasn't 100 percent," Bogut said. "Now that I'm here, it's a great honor."

The Atlanta Hawks chose Williams second, and the 19-year-old player flashed a bright smile at Stern while shaking the commissioner's hand. The 6-foot-9 (2.06-meter) small forward was a sixth man for the Tar Heels.

Illinois junior point guard Deron Williams went third to the Jazz, who sent three first-round picks—Nos. 6 and 27 in this year's draft, plus a 2006 first-round pick—to the Trail Blazers earlier Tuesday.

New Orleans selected fourth and also chose a playmaker, picking Wake Forest sophomore guard Chris Paul, and the Charlotte Bobcats took North Carolina junior point guard Raymond Felton at No. 5. It marked the first time since 1999 that three point guards were picked among the top 10.

High school senior Martell Webster of Seattle Prep went No. 6 to Portland, making him the first prep player taken in a draft notable for its historical significance. It likely marked the final time high school players would be eligible to jump directly to the pros—the route chosen by Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant, Tracy McGrady, LeBron James, Jermaine O'Neal and others.

Under terms of the new six-year collective bargaining agreement to take effect in July, high school players will have to wait one year after their class graduates to become draft eligible.

The new agreement also reduces the length of guaranteed contracts for first-round picks from three years to two, with teams holding options for additional years. Even with the reduced length of his first deal, Bogut will become a millionaire the moment he signs with the Bucks.

"It's one of the best days of my life, and

ANDREW Bogut flashes the victory sign after being selected No. 1 overall. AP

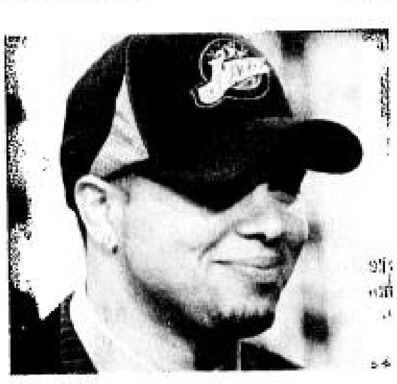
my family's," Bogut said. "I am going to be a workhorse."

Connecticut sophomore forward Charlie Villanueva was chosen seventh by the Toronto Raptors, and the Knicks addressed their need for a big man by taking Arizona center Channing Frye—the first college senior selected—with the No. 8 pick.

Arizona State junior Ike Diogu went ninth to Golden State, and 7-foot high school senior Andrew Bynum of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, N.J., went 10th to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Orlando selected center Fran Vasquez of the Spanish club Unicaja Malaga at No. 11, and the Los Angeles Clippers chose 18-year-old forward Yaroslav Korolev of the Russian club CSKA Moscow at No. 12. *AP*

M. WILLIAMS REUTERS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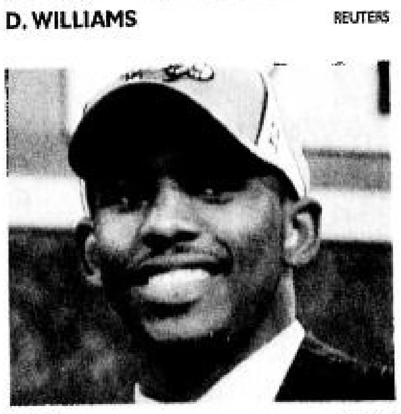
PAUL REUTERS

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showdown: Sharapova

nals began with more sunshine and windy conditions.

No. 12-seeded Pierce needed 37 minutes and 56 points to win a game against Williams, and the Frenchwoman grinned when she broke through to make the score, 6-0, 1-1.

Her shots became much more consistent from that point, and both players held serve to 6-all.

The tiebreaker produced a series of exciting rallies, but Pierce squandered repeated chances to force a third set.

When she blew an easy putaway on a backhand volley at 6-all, Williams yelled "Yes!" and raised both fists.

But the No. 14-seeded Williams had to hit three more winners before she closed out the victory.

"I was hitting a lot of great shots and hard shots," Williams said. "She was hitting some winners out of nowhere. She really picked up the level of her game."

'It was hard'

The fifth-seeded Kuznetsova failed to convert a set point in the 10th game of the first set against Davenport, who won the final six points in the tiebreaker to take charge.

"It was hard," Davenport said. "I didn't feel at any point of the match that I really had any rhythm. The points were pretty short. Sometimes that's grass-court tennis for you."

Davenport is assured of retaining the No. 1 ranking next week, regardless of how the final four fare. She's bidding for her fourth major title and first since 2000.

"Hopefully it will keep going the way it has been going," she said.

Like Williams and Sharapova, Mauresmo has yet to lose a set in five rounds, and she showed the Center Court crowd how effective her game can be on grass.

She played serve-and-volley, chipped and charged on returns and smartly mixed the pace of her shots against Myskina.

Pressure

"I decided to put the pressure on her right from the first game and make her play as many shots as I could," Mauresmo said.

"I was able to choose the right ones to come in on, so that was really good."

Shaky nerves have plagued Mauresmo in the past, but she calmly served out the victory at love. When the ninth-seeded Myskina sailed a backhand long on match point, Mauresmo leaped with glee and punched the air.

Mauresmo, a former No. 1 player seeking her first Grand Slam title, lost in the semifinals in 2002 and 2004. She missed the 2003 tournament with an injury.

The Frenchwoman has lost to Davenport in their past six meetings dating to 2000. Sharapova is 2-0 against Williams.

"We just have to go out and battle it out," Sharapova said, "and see who can come out and win the fight." **AP**

MARIA Sharapova continues to roll through her title defense. REUTERS

Reinstate BAP, Lina begs POC

By Musong R. Castillo

LINA

THE FATE of the Basketball Association of the Philippines may have changed for the better.

BAP president Joey Lina sat with Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday and personally appealed his association's case to the POC president on the eve of a crucial POC General Assembly today.

"We now leave our fate to the POC leadership," Lina said over the phone, a few hours after the meeting with Cojuangco which, he added, more or less gave the BAP a glimmer of hope for its suspension to be lifted.

"I have filed all letters and amplified all the points in our appeal (to Cojuangco)," Lina added. "We are doing our best to be worthy of being restored as an NSA (National Sports Association)."

The GA will be held at the Milky Way Restaurant in Pasay Road at noon today, with the 38 or so members voting whether to expel the BAP as the country's governing body for basketball.

The dialogue between the former Tarlac congressman and Lina yesterday could change the outcome of the meeting altogether if only for the fact that the BAP is now under a new leadership.

Lina was elected the new president of the BAP in place of the ailing Tiny Literal, and the former senator and local and interior governments secretary could be the answer to the leadership crisis the BAP has been criticized for.

"We are in the process of trying to rectify all our errors," Lina explained. "We will think long and hard if we are going to attend (the GA)."

The internal grumbling in the newly formed Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. could also affect the way the GA is conducted.

The election of the PBFI's first set of officers was postponed indefinitely as a power struggle emerged early and stakeholder Philippine Basketball Association refusing to take a position.

The BAP was indefinitely suspended on May 25 for failing to comply with basic agreements forged in two cage summits in April.

Another reason was the unreliable leadership that the cage body had at that time, a matter which the BAP now thinks it has addressed with the election of Lina as president.

The other new officials are former POC. president Cristy Ramos-Jalasco and Tanduay COO Wilson Young as directors. Lito Alvarez of FedEx was elevated to deputy secretary general from director.

d. I believe he also leads in the
recards of my colleagues—even
ore that dinner by the bay was
d.
Or am I underestimating the
ırms of Kris Aquino?

***

STBREAK. My golf buddy Ed Gad-
ınd his wife of 39 years celebrated
ir wedding anniversary recently
giving their party budget to the
's street children. Commend-
e... "I have spent the best years of
life in the service of basketball,"
d Buddy Encarnado, the PBA chair,
en I bumped into him on Sunday
he Araneta parking lot. "I have no
rets and, in fact, I will continue
ving the sport in whatever capaci-
hat I can be of help to it." Cheers to
t, Buddy.
(Comments at menju@pldtd-
net)

Federer remains the man to beat

WIMBLEDON, England—Roger Federer hasn't lost a match on grass in more than three years, a run that includes the last two Wimbledon titles and a spot in the quarterfinals at this year's tournament.

To win again at the All England Club—joining Bjorn Borg and Pete Sampras as the only men in the past 70 years to win three straight Wimbledons—the top-ranked Federer might have to beat 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt in the semifinals and Andy Roddick in the final.

"My goal for this year is Wimbledon, No. 1 in the world," Federer said. "I'm right in it now. I have to prove it—to myself especially."

On Wednesday, Federer has to face Fernando Gonzalez, the first Chilean to reach the men's quarterfinals since Ricardo Acuna in 1985.

Hewitt, who has missed much of this year's tour because of injury, is likely to be next, if the Australian can get past surprise quarterfinalist Feliciano Lopez of Spain.

Roddick, seeded second, is the favorite to advance from the bottom half of the draw. He faces practice partner Sebastien Grosjean in the quarterfinals, and the winner will play either David Nalbandian or Thomas Johansson.

None of those three players would be easy for Roddick to beat.

Grosjean has reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon three consecutive years, Nalbandian played in the final in 2002 and Johansson won the 2002 Australian Open.

"I'm not good enough to overlook the next two matches and look ahead," Roddick said. "So I have to get through these first."

Federer is still the man to beat.

The Swiss player has won an Open-era record of 20 consecutive ATP finals, including seven this year, and has a 55-3 record in 2005. His only losses were to Marat Safin, Richard Gasquet and Rafael Nadal.

The losses to Safin and Nadal came in Grand Slam semifinals, and both went on to win the title.

On grass, however, Federer continues to dominate. He has won 33 consecutive matches on the fast surface, second in the Open era only to Borg, who won 41 straight from 1976-81, including five Wimbledon titles.

Gonzalez, the only player who has not lost a set during the tournament, will be trying to end Federer's streak and reach his first Grand Slam semifinal.

Roddick won his only major title 21 months ago at the 2003 US Open. His serve has never been a problem, but he thinks he needs to improve on coming to the net and returning.

"I think those are the two things that will be key for me," Roddick said. "Those are probably more specific to Wimbledon.

"I always look to put a lot of first serves in," he said. "I fell like that puts pressure on people."

Hewitt, the world's No. 2 player, is possibly the best returner in the game. He's hoping to improve his serve.

"If I can hold my service games a little bit more comfortably and go out there and clean up my service games, then obviously that's going to help me, especially on this surface," said Hewitt, who underwent foot surgery this spring, then missed the French Open after cracking two ribs when he fell down stairs at his home in Sydney. **AP**

UNTIL somebody unseats him, Roger Federer's still Wimbledon's best. REUTERS

w driving nge opens

the middle of the four champi-
ourses that make the Eagle Ridge
Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite,
largest in Asia has risen another gi-
riving range.
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gle Ridge allows for hitting from op-
s, thus accommodating a hundred
the same time.
Ridge project director engineer Wini
hat the strategic location of the range
t least 10 hectares in land area ensures
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real conditions for practice since play-
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nd Sangil and Katrina Gonzalez won
ral NTCC and part of their prizes were
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hile, Shin Na Song and Kim Jin Joo
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nble format at the Faldo course. Shin
cored a net 14-under 58.
ision I title went to Baek Yoon Sang and
Jae whose 61 gave them a two-stroke
he tandems of Kim Young Bae-Kim So
Kim Sang Hyun-Lim Hugo Martin.
oon Sik-Myung Woo Mun had a com-
in in Division II with a 69 as Gerry Bru-
Abundo tallied a 73.
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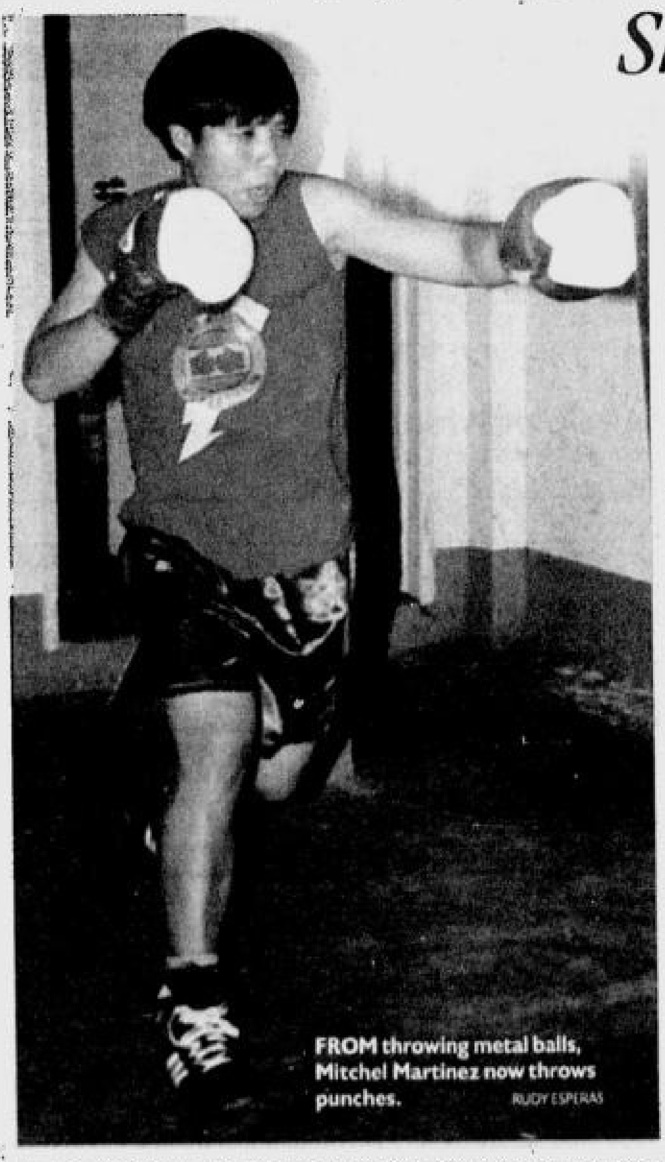

FROM throwing metal balls, Mitchel Martinez now throws punches. RUDY ESPERAS

Shot put queen now throws bombs in square arena

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN Mitchel Martinez stepped in the ring for her first competition, she wasn't too sure of herself.

Martinez, after all, had only three months of practice under her belt. Yet there she was in Thailand, ready to slug it out in the 1st Women Asean Boxing Championship.

"*Wala talaga akong alam* (I didn't know what to do)," said Martinez, recalling her first bout in 2001. "We trained in May, then competed in August. We were the first women's boxing national team."

But Martinez proved to be a natural. She won all her matches via knockout in the light welterweight division to become the only Filipino winner in the tournament.

"My opponents were boxing for about four years already ," the 29-year-old Martinez said. "But for me, it was instinct. *Pag nasasaktan ka, gaganti ka* (When you get hurt, you fight back)."

The win didn't come as a surprise for those who knew her well. Long before boxing, Martinez displayed her athletic prowess in track and field. In fact, Martinez was so good that she dominated the shot put event in the Palarong Pambansa from 1993 to 1997.

So why did she trade her metal ball for a pair of boxing gloves? Martinez said she realized she was in the wrong sport when she started competing in Asian track meets.

"My Asian rivals were bigger," said the 5-foot-3 Martinez. "I can easily win here. But other countries like China have 6-footers. I can't win against them."

It was a big help that Martinez started as an all-around athlete. "From Grade 5 to 6, I was already running," Martinez said. "I was competing for our school (in Bacolod City), but I had no formal training."

She also joined the basketball varsity team in high school, but eventually, was tapped to fill in for a shot put event in one provincial competition.

"I also had no training in shot put," she said. "But the coach said, *tapon ka lang ng tapon* (just make a throw).

With her unexpected strength, Martinez kept on winning until she wound up bagging several golds in the Palarong Pambansa.

Coach Roel Velasco was forming the first national women's boxing team in 2001 when he spotted Martinez training in the Rizal track and field.

"She was a thrower *kaya alam kong malakas siya* (I knew she was strong)," he noted.

Surprisingly, the decision to shift to boxing proved easy for Martinez.

"*Nakikipagsuntukan nga ako sa mga lalaki noon* (I used to trade punches with boys then)," she said laughing. "I've always liked boxing even when I was young."

Although Velasco was impressed by Martinez's dedication, he didn't expect the quick improvement of his new ward.

"She had to learn the fundamentals step by step," said Velasco. "I taught him the basics every day. But she's a strong puncher, that's her advantage."

Right now, Martinez is setting her sights on grabbing the first women's boxing gold medal in the lightweight division of the Southeast Asian Games this November.

"I'm really pressured in the SEA Games," she said. "More so because boxing will be held in Bacolod, my province. I have to focus *pero may laban tayo* (but we have a chance)."

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Tall Tale: Year of the Yao

REVIEW

NEW YORK—You may think you know—as the rock stars and starlets and stud athletes say when they invite cameras into their homes on MTV—but you have no idea.

And after watching "The Year of the Yao" (opening soon in Manila as "Tall Tale"), which plays like a feature-length version of one of those MTV "Diary" episodes, you won't have much more of an idea, but at least you'll have a good time.

The documentary about Yao Ming—the 7-foot-6 (2.28-meter) Houston Rockets center and instant pop-culture icon—follows the National Basketball Association's first Chinese player from his selection as the No. 1 draft pick in 2002 through his rookie season.

Because co-directors James D. Stern and Adam Del Deo made the film with help from NBA Entertainment, you're not exactly getting a warts-and-all depiction. But Yao, who was 22 then, nonetheless is a fascinating subject, if only because he's such an anomaly.

He has the eyes of a billion people back home watching him as a cultural symbol and international ambassador. He has the insatiable American media scrutinizing his every move (Charles Barkley is especially vocal in his own uniquely unfiltered way— more on that later). He has a new language to learn as well as coach Rudy Tomjanovich's complex coding system for calling plays.

Day job

And then there is his day job: actually competing in the NBA, where he finds a far more aggressive physicality than he's ever experienced. Even the obligatory hand shake-shoulder bump greeting he receives upon meeting his new teammates looks awkward on him.

But Yao handles all this with grace and good nature — that we see, at least — thanks to some help from his parents, both former basketball stars in China who largely remain in the background, and from his interpreter, a relationship that proves to be the film's most compelling element.

Colin Pine, a then-28-year-old Baltimore native with a love of Chinese culture and language, starts out helping Yao answer questions during news conferences, but becomes his tour guide through American culture and eventually functions as a confidant and brother figure.

Colin also becomes our tour guide in Yao's world, serving as narrator and walking us through the season, from the pressure of big games against Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers to the mundane details of daily life like eating pizza and playing video games. They're totally different people from vastly different worlds, but they become close through sheer necessity and a shared love of basketball and new experiences. It's a sweet, unexpected thing to watch to their friendship develop.

Watching Yao's game develop, though, is something else entirely. After playing his whole life with a culturally ingrained sense of teamwork, he comes off as somewhat of a bust at first to American fans and pundits. He is simply too nice.

Kiss-butt bet

"I guess people might have thought he was a big clumsy oaf," Colin concedes after Yao's weak showing during the Rockets' season opener against the Indiana Pacers.

YAO Ming with Shaquille O'Neal

Barkley, himself a former Rockets star, takes it even further. "Yao Ming made Shawn Bradley look like Bill Russell," he says on TNT, and pledges to kiss co-host Kenny Anderson's butt if Yao ever scores 19 points. (He finally does, and in one of the film's funnier scenes, Barkley is forced to follow through by kissing a donkey's posterior on live TV. To his credit, Yao laughs it off, and consistently seems comfortable making fun of his larger-than-life image.)

But "Year of the Yao" is also enthralling in the same way much of celebrity reality TV is — for the voyeuristic guilty pleasure of watching famous people at home, or during unguarded moments. Yao doesn't reveal much, but we do get to see the sort of toll his frenzied American schedule takes on him, especially during festivities surrounding the All-Star Game, where he beat Shaq in voting to win the spot as starting center.

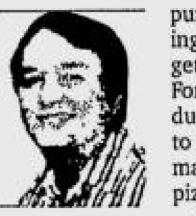
Then at the end, "The Year of the Yao" feels truncated. It would have been helpful, for example, to see some sort of epilogue detailing the stats for his rookie year. Yao simply gets on a plane for China, you see him and the Rockets play the Sacramento Kings in an exhibition game in Shanghai last October (the first time two NBA teams had played each other in the country), and that's it.

Simply from watching the movie, you'd think this was a one-year deal—"Yao Ming's Big Adventure," if you will.

Christy Lemire, AP

Jane Fonda does her feisty worst—and best

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

FANS of **Jane Fonda** are excited to see her on the movie screen, after a long hiatus. Even better, her title role in her comeback film, "Monster-In-Law," allows and even encourages her to do her feisty worst—which means her best!

Fonda both shocks and delights in this production, because she fully lives up to the "monstrous" dimension of her role. She plays a mature woman who's just been fired from the TV hosting job that has made her popular and powerful for decades.

To add personal insult to this career injury, her only son proposes to a woman (**Jennifer Lopez**) whom Fonda's character instantly regards as an interloper and prime rival for her son's affections.

At first, Fonda puts Lopez down with an icy smile. When Lopez refuses to be daunted, Fonda takes out her heavy artillery and initiates a major demolition campaign that leaves both of them heavily battered, bloodied—but unbowed.

Thus does the movie go to town with its gleefully elemental depiction of the age-old rivalry between mother and wife-to-be. Some sequences even go over the top with its catfights, like the nastily hilarious scene in which the two combative women trade punches like ornery pugilists in a boxing ring. And the winner is? Lopez gets the guy in the final clinch, but Fonda runs off with the entire production, despite Lopez's best efforts to keep up with her. She's simply no match for Fonda's sass, class and pizazz.

Even more admirably, Fonda agrees to be occasionally deglamorized in this production.

Most of the time, she looks sleek and gorgeous, like the famous ex-TV host she's supposed to be. But in some sequences that show her in flaming rage or deep depression, she allows her creases, wrinkles, sagging skin and wattles to show.

This makes her rage, jealousy and psychological need acutely believable, and gets the audience sympathetically, empathetically on her side.

Lopez could learn something from Fonda in this regard. The younger actress is too conscious of her appearance, her make-up too pluperfect for the "ordinary" Jennifer-of-all-trades character she plays.

We can also fault the production for not thinking up enough plot development or subplots to dynamically flesh out its initially strong premise. But Fonda's vital and edgy performance provides the glue that holds the movie's disparate bits together, and gives its proceedings the tics and kicks it needs to keep viewers feistily, zestfully entertained.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 6 a.m., "Lady Jane." 9:55 a.m., "Moscow on the Hudson." 11:50 a.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." 9 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

On Cinemax today at 3:45 p.m., "The Man Who Knew Too Much." 9 p.m., "Japanese Story." 2:30 a.m., "Tobruk."

John Lloyd Cruz in 'Maala-ala Mo Kaya'

Channel 2's "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" tonight dramatizes the inspiring story of Jonnel Enorme, an award-winning Filipino skater who has cerebral palsy. **John Lloyd Cruz** plays Jonnel, and other key roles are played by **Rio Locsin, Noel Colet** and **Maoui David.** "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" invites viewers to open their hearts for a text fund drive for Jonnel.

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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341924
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 HAPPYLY EVER AFTER
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 RESERVED
4 HUBAD NA MULTO

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 BATMAN BEGINS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) WAR OF THE WORLDS
5 BATMAN BEGINS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 UNLEASHED
4 AMITYVILL HORROR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE SIN
2 SUKDULAN
3 MOTEL
4 (DTS) PREMONITION

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 LIBERATED - 2
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (DTS) UNLEASHED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 (DTS) PREMONITION
4 SUKDULAN
5 BATMAN BEGINS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 (DOLBY) A LOTE LIKE LOVE
4 (DTS) MR. & MRS. SMITH

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 AMITYVILL HORROR
3 PREMONITION
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 NASAAN KAMAN

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ALIPIN NG ALIW
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
The Gateway Pavilion
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 WAR OF THE WORLDS & BATMAN BEGINS
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
MR & MRS SMITH 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
MONSTER IN LAW 1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25
HAPPILY EVER AFTER 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
WAR OF THE WORLDS 11:40 / 12:15 / 12:50 / 1:40 / 2:35 / 3:10 / 3:45 / 4:20 5:30 / 6:05 / 6:40 / 7:00 / 8:25 / 9:00 / 9:35 / 9:40
BATMAN BEGINS 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
NASAAN KA MAN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
WAR OF THE WORLDS 1:25 / 4:20 / 7:15 / 10:10
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ HAPPILY EVER AFTER 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
❷ WAR OF THE WORLDS 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
❸ BATMAN BEGINS 11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10
❹ NASAAN KA MAN 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❺ MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 1, Friday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE- FINALS 4:45pm Red Bull vs Shell / 7:35pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
July 3, Sunday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 2 6:40pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN ATENEO - LA SALLE BASKETBALL CLASSIC July 2, Sat, 1pm & 3pm
July 6, Wednesday 2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE FINALS: GAME 3 7:30pm Talk N Text vs San Miguel
CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS: *Celine Sale with up to 50% off on selected items from July 1 to 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall*
Bayo Sale with up to 50% off on selected items from July 8 to 24 at Level 3 of Gateway Mall
EXHIBIT: *Herbie: Fully Loaded life-size replica on display from July 7 to 13 at the Gateway Cineplex 10 lobby*
SPECIAL APPEARANCE: *Neil Gaiman Book Signing on July 11, 4pm at Fully Booked on Level 2 of Gateway Mall*
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Does James Yap have a Paula, too?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUST ASKING:

Is it that cager **James Yap** has a longtime girlfriend named **Paula** (aside from his coed ex, who's allegedly pregnant)? My Negrense sources tell me that Paula belongs to an affluent family in Bacolod. She remains mum about the wedding plans of **Kris Aquino** and James even if Kris has met with James' family.

As my source says, 'James' mom was shocked when Kris announced that they were going to get married. *Ang alam nila may GF si* James. But since the meeting was televised, James' family just went along with it. Paula knows where she stands, and refuses to be part of the circus."

Nancy's type?

IS IT true that **Paolo Contis'** new girlfriend is the sister of **Paolo Paraiso—Bubbles**? Conti's ex, **Nancy Castiglione**, is now happy with **Bullet Jalosjos**. Paolo and Bullet are skinheads. Maybe that's Nancy's weakness?

Dirty linen

JUST a few weeks ago **Ethel Booba**'s brothers and her live-in lover **Alex Crisano** were so chummy on TV. Last Sunday, Ethel's family let out a mouthful against Alex. In true show biz fashion, Ethel and her mom washed their dirty linen on nationwide TV. Although they had valid points, they illustrated only one thing: breeding can't be taught. Either you're born with it or not.

Not for the twin

RICHARD Gutierrez is playing a dual role in GMA 7's "Sugo." I wondered why his twin brother **Raymond** wasn't tapped, if only to make things easier. Richard explained: "Raymond is into hosting, not acting. Even if we're twins, we have different interests. We learn from each other that way."

So to his fans who can't get enough of Richard, you'll have him times two—no double, no substitute— in "Sugo."

GUESS LIST:

GUESS who this TV host/deejay is! During a fashion mag's anniversary bash, a fotog wanted to take her picture but she exclaimed "Stop! I'm here to enjoy!" Other celebrities gamely posed for the paparazzi. Does she think she's a notch above the rest? Said a colleague, "She was axed from her TV show. She has no right to behave like a prima donna!" Or was she just trying to do a **Nicole Kidman**?

Why they split

Guess who this show biz uncouple is! They claim that their split-up was a mutual decision, for their careers. But a close friend of the actor's told me that the reason they broke up was, he could no longer stand her domineering. She would embarrass the actor in front of their friends, my source said. Plus, the actor's mom loathes her being a slob at home. Next time you watch a show biz couple explaining on TV why they split up, bear in mind that one of them may have a split personality.

Contradictions

VETERAN news and current affairs talents and personnel of ABS-CBN have reportedly been "forced to retire" as part of the company's cost-cutting measures. Another reported reason was that ABS-CBN decided to seriously rebuild its news organization to earn credibility and integrity. This was probably the reason that, except for **David Jude Sta. Ana**, former GMA News and Public Affairs personalities who were pirated by ABS-CBN some years ago were asked to stay on.

If ABS-CBN wants to earn credibility, it should observe how things are done over at GMA News and Public Affairs. Known for its responsibility and credibility, GMA News and Public Affairs is also the only Philippine broadcast news organization with an Ethics and Editorial Manual that its personnel strictly adhere to.

ABS-CBN reportedly offered a retirement package of three months salary for every year of service, that cannot compare with the job security and compensation currently being enjoyed by GMA Network employees. Last year, GMA-7 people were said to have received a four-month bonus on top of the required 13th month pay. This year, it looks like GMA employees will receive more.

So while heads are rolling over at ABS-CBN, more job vacancies are opening up at GMA-7, with the expansion projects in full blast.

The HOLE!

WHILE I was unwinding with my son **Icey** at Watering Hole, I turned "senti" and realized that the place had become a big part of my life. When I'm down, I seek refuge there and when I'm up I also go there to celebrate.

Already in its 10th year, Watering Hole has never failed to impress me with the good food (I swear, the oysters are to die for!), great music (I just love their acoustic nights on weekdays and R&B tunes during the weekends) and terrific interiors . A lot of bars and restaurants have come and gone. There's just something about Watering Hole that makes me keep coming back.

The place is always full of diners early evening and music lovers late at night even on weekdays! Imagine beer for as low as P25 per bottle and pica-pica for only P100 ! See you at the Hole!

(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB: PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB: PG-13
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

3 MONSTER IN LAW
MTRCB: PG-13

4 BATMAN BEGINS
MTRCB: GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE WAR OF THE WORLDS
MTRCB: PG-13 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
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687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 BATMAN BEGINS
PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
GP

2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:00, 1:40, 7:00, 9:30
PG-13

3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
12:20, 3:00, 5:40
8:20, 11:00
PG-13

4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
PG-13

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

1	2	3
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG 11:55,2:25,4:55,7:25,9:55	WAR OF THE WORLDS PG 11:20,1:50,4:20,6:50,9:20	MONSTER IN LAW PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:20
WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 1:15,3:45,6:15,8:45	BATMAN BEGINS GP 11:40,2:20 HOTEL RWANDA R13 5:00,7:30,10:00	WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

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Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Kiliti
4 Batman Begins
5 Nasaan ka Man
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METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Mr & Mrs Smith
2 Nasaan ka Man
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Batman Begins
6 Monster - in - Law

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 A Good Company
2 Rental Reservation

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CINEMA 2 TO BE ANNOUNCED
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PROMENADE
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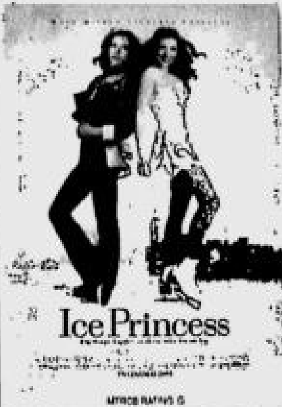
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 MONSTER-IN-LAW PG13 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 4 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10,9:40
CINEMA 5 WAR OF THE WORLDS PG13 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
JULY 1 & 2 RICO with the K 9PM
JULY 29 & 30 SOULSISTERS 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



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• HAPPILY EVER AFTER
• FANTASTIC FOUR
• MONSTER-IN-LAW

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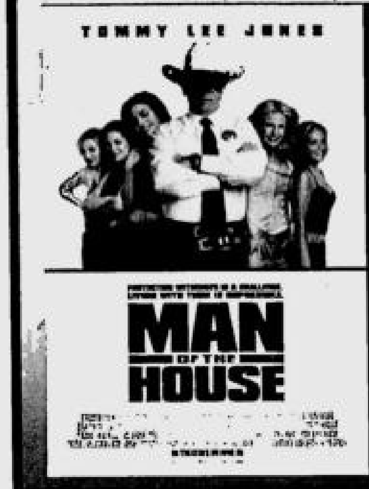
the podium 633-8976
1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:05FS/11:35MF/02:05/04:40/07:15 09:15LFS/09:55LMF/11:55END
2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:50FS/12:20MF/02:50/05:30/08:05 10:05LFS/10:40LMF/12:40END

megamall 633-1901
WAR OF THE WORLDS
10:30FS/11:00MF/01:30/04:00/06:30 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:30END
2 BATMAN BEGINS
11:30FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:30LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
11:40FS/11:50MF/02:15/04:40/07:05 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END



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WAVE 89.1

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1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4	BATMAN BEGINS
5	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
8	MONSTER-IN-LAW
9	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
10	WAR OF THE WORLDS
11	NASAAN KA MAN
12	HOTEL RWANDA

sm city fairview	
1	MAN OF THE HOUSE
2	NASAAN KA MAN
3	HOUSE OF WAX
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS
5	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
6	MR. & MRS. SMITH
7	WAR OF THE WORLDS
8	BATMAN BEGINS
9	MONSTER-IN-LAW
10	SHUTTER
11	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
12	PREMONITION

sm north edsa	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	BATMAN BEGINS
3	MONSTER-IN-LAW
4	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
5	WAR OF THE WORLDS
6	MR. & MRS. SMITH
7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

sm city sta mesa	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	MONSTER-IN-LAW
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	MR. & MRS. SMITH
5	WAR OF THE WORLDS
6	PREMONITION
7	NASAAN KA MAN
8	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
9	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10	HOTEL RWANDA

sm city southmall	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	ICE PRINCESS
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS
5	MONSTER-IN-LAW
6	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
7	MR. & MRS. SMITH
8	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
9	NASAAN KA MAN
10	SHUTTER

sm city manila	
1	MR. & MRS. SMITH
2	WAR OF THE WORLDS
3	A LOT LIKE LOVE
4	BATMAN BEGINS
5	MONSTER-IN-LAW
6	WAR OF THE WORLDS
7	HOTEL RWANDA
8	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
9	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
10	HOUSE OF WAX
11	SHUTTER
12	NASAAN KA MAN

sm cinema tutuban	
1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat	
1	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
2	WAR OF THE WORLDS
3	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4	BATMAN BEGINS

sm city bicutan	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS

LUZON

sm city pampanga	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	WAR OF THE WORLDS
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	MR. & MRS. SMITH
5	NASAAN KA MAN
6	HAPPILY EVER AFTER

sm city bacoor	
1	HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
2	NASAAN KA MAN
3	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4	BATMAN BEGINS
5	WAR OF THE WORLDS
6	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
7	MONSTER-IN-LAW
8	MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city dasmariñas	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city baguio	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city marilao	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city lucena	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	HOUSE OF WAX
3	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4	BATMAN BEGINS

sm city cagayan de oro	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	HOUSE OF WAX
3	BATMAN BEGINS
4	WAR OF THE WORLDS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu	
1	MR. & MRS. SMITH
2	BATMAN BEGINS
3	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4	HOUSE OF WAX
5	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
6	PREMONITION
7	NASAAN KA MAN
8	WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city iloilo	
1	HOUSE OF WAX
2	RESERVED
3	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4	MR. & MRS. SMITH
5	A LOT LIKE LOVE
6	BATMAN BEGINS
7	RESERVED
8	HAPPILY EVER AFTER

sm city davao	
1	WAR OF THE WORLDS
2	PREMONITION
3	NASAAN KA MAN
4	MR. & MRS. SMITH
5	BATMAN BEGINS
6	WAR OF THE WORLDS

sm city batangas	
1	BATMAN BEGINS
2	HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4	NASAAN KA MAN

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2 WAR OF THE WORLDS
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
6 WAR OF THE WORLDS
7 HOTEL RWANDA
8 BATMAN BEGINS
9 NASAAN KA MAN
10 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
5 BATMAN BEGINS
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MONSTER-IN-LAW
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 NASAAN KA MAN
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 HOTEL RWANDA
7 BATMAN BEGINS
8 HAPPILY EVER AFTER

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 UNLEASHED
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

PIONEER 687-5378

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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4 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 BATMAN BEGINS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 WAR OF THE WORLDS
2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
3 BATMAN BEGINS
4 WAR OF THE WORLDS

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
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4 UNLEASHED

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2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW

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2 HAPPILY EVER AFTER
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4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
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6 BATMAN BEGINS

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3 SHUTTER
4 BATMAN BEGINS
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 IN GOOD COMPANY

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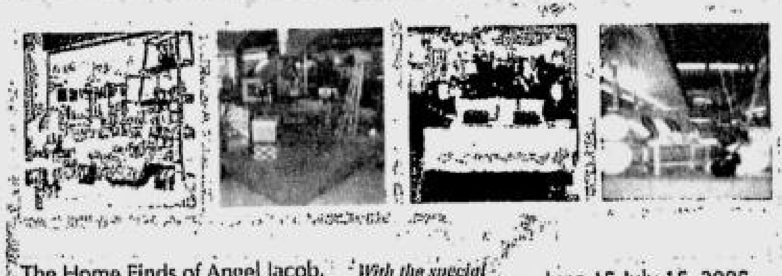

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KC Concepcion: I am my own worst critic

The former Mega baby is all grown up and basking in the spotlight as 'Belle'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Conrad Delfino for Atlantis Productions

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

"I AM my own worst critic," KC Concepcion says. "I am pretty hard on myself. Every day, I discover something new to improve."

Talk about pressure. This incoming college junior is spending her summer vacation as lead star of a Disney musical.

Sipping tea and nursing a minor case of the sniffles, KC is beaming, nevertheless, during the post-premiere party of Atlantis Productions' "Beauty and the Beast."

Minutes earlier at the Meralco Theater, she was showered with hearty applause at curtain call.

"I felt more relaxed tonight than last night," KC says again, recalling the previous evening's press preview.

She overcame the tension, she notes, by "remaining focused," a tip given her by Megastar-mom Sharon Cuneta and top-notch coaches Lea Salonga and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo.

"It takes a big chunk of my energy to keep focused!" she admits. "But tonight, I had a lot more fun!"

This sense of enjoyment she clearly passed on to the first-night crowd. "They were all my friends," she says. "I'm not doing it for the applause or anything. I just love being onstage. And when people show their appreciation, it pulls me through all the sacrifice."

Neither for cheers nor for celebrity—it's a handy rule.

"You can't do a show based on those reasons," KC insists. "Otherwise you'll be distracted."

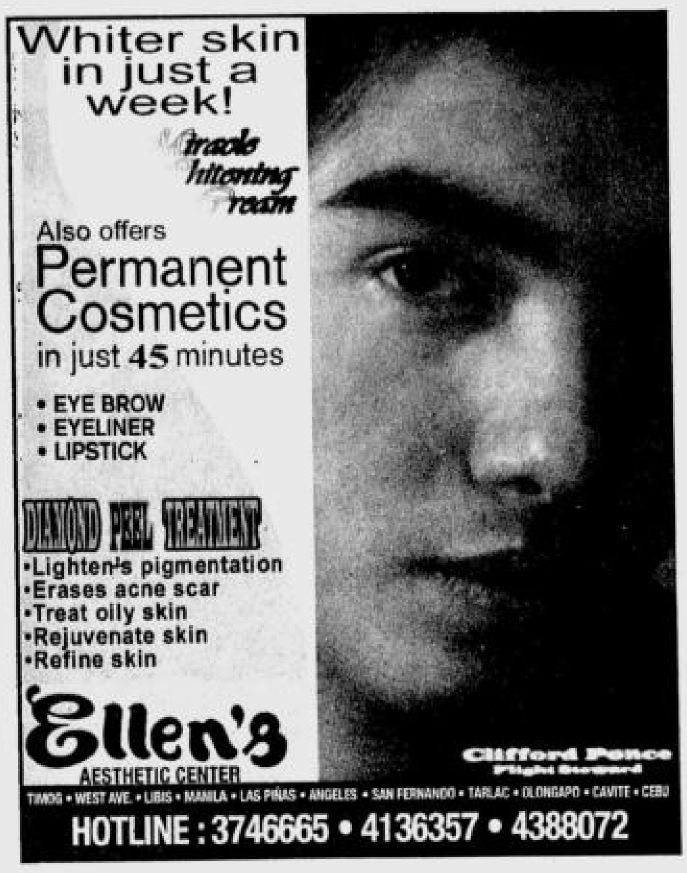
She relays another priceless piece of advice imparted by a cast mate: "During each performance, it's best to think of the old lady in the farthest row who's near-deaf. She wants to know the story and my job is to perform for her."

KC has grown fond of the Atlantis troupe, commending the members for "commitment to their craft."

"They excel because they do it for the right reasons," she says. "One thing I've learned: This is not about me; this is about discipline and putting in extra effort."

KC CONCEPCION/ A2-2

PERFORMING for the deaf old lady in the farthest row



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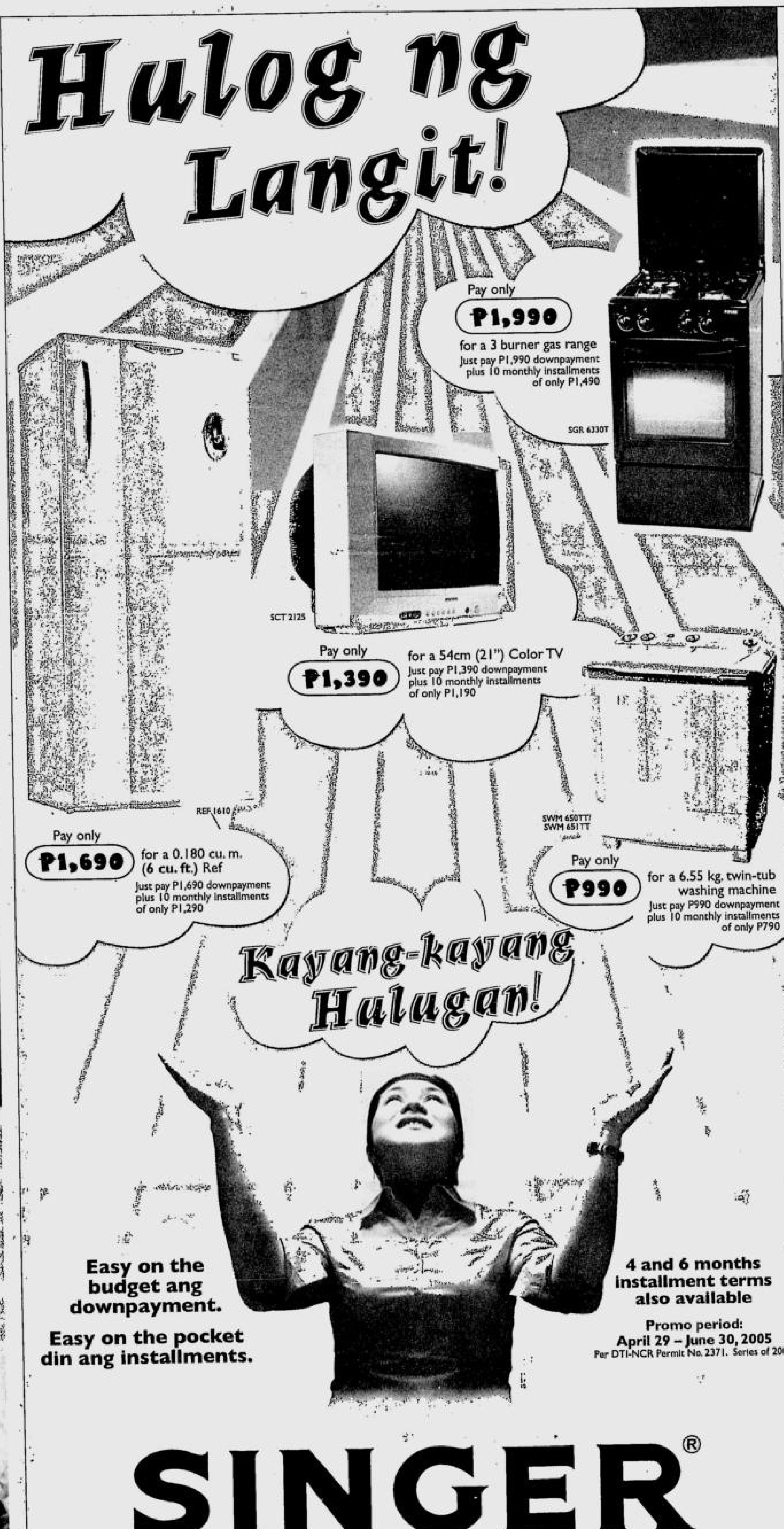

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"GALACTICA" 2005 cast, including (foreground, from left) Edward James Olmos, Mary MacDonnell, Jamie Bamber, Katee Sackhoff, Grace Park, James Callis and Tricia Helfer

OLMOS as Commander Adama keeping things together

Once more, with

By Emmie G. Velarde

REST assured that, wherever and whenever you find humans, a great many will be driven by the same familiar desires—power, ambition and/or sex.

They will be burdened by the same familiar baggage as well—the three dark Rs (regret, resentment, revenge), plus guilt, higher ambition, and, alas, a need for more power and/or sex.

Bribery, treachery, emotional blackmail? You can take these for granted.

But rest assured, too, that wherever and whenever you find humans pushed to the brink of catastrophe by their own follies, they will be delivered by the same, if less familiar, innate powers—discernment, cooperation, nobility of spirit.

Of course, when we are talking about human denizens of sci-fi, they're bound to be armed for the quest with lightning-speed aircraft, inter-planetary communications equipment and all imaginable death-dealing devices.

Wherever: "Battlestar Galactica" circa 2005 is, like its forerunning 1978 TV series, "set in the distant solar system."

Whenever: In a phone interview with Asian journalists gathered recently in Singapore, the "re-imagined" series' writer and executive producer, Ronald Moore ("Roswell," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Carnivale") points out that neither the original nor the remake indicates whether this story is running in the distant past or in the distant future.

Since the main thread of the plot is a conflict between people in Kobol, a republic of 12 space colonies, and sentient cyborgs called Cylons—sophisticated robots with artificial intelligence—it is difficult for regular humans who are bound to watch the series soon on Cinemax to not imagine the story taking place at least two centuries henceforth.

The good news is, no traffic.

The bad news is, some women, including the president of Kobol, are still going to have cancer and bad-hair days.

Two aspects are not as obviously black or white: 1) there will still be paparazzi and 2) Earth is a mythical planet, a dream, a refuge.

The story

First, remember that the "fi" in sci-fi means "fiction."

The people of the 12 Colonies have lived in peace with the Cylons, their own creation-for-convenience, for over 40 years. Having gained "consciousness" and, presumably, human disposition, on top of AI, the Cylons turn

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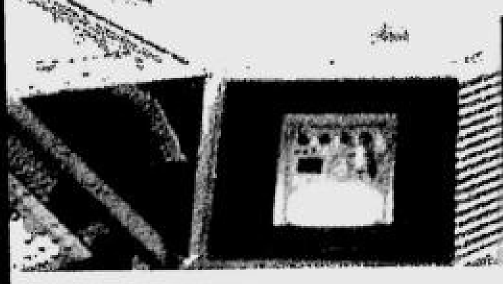


feeling

on their masters and annihilate the entire human population in a sneak nuclear attack.

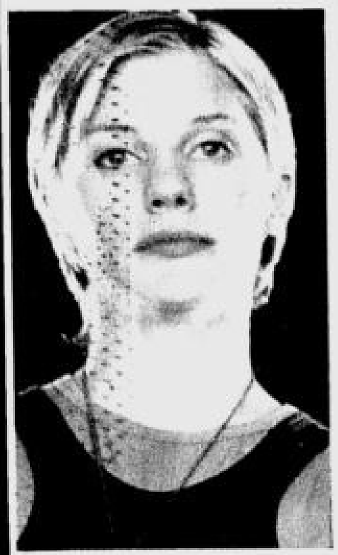
During this fantastic uprising, Galactica, the ultimate space warship at the start of those 40 years, is already being decommissioned and turned into a museum! Too far out in position for the attackers, it becomes the sole surviving "battlestar," bearer of the last survivors of mankind.

Upon the death of the Colonial President, civilian authority is transferred to the secretary of education, 43rd in the line of succession. Galactica's commander, a war hero who has just announced his retirement and successor, becomes the highest-ranking military official alive. The two are estranged spouses who have yet to iron out a few kinks in their past.

Realizing that his ragtag fleet is outnumbered (it seems Cylons don't need nine months to birth their offspring or 15 years to be gun-trainable—they also have only a few instantly functioning "models") and outgunned (this is harder to explain), the commander decides to run away from the fight and seek out a new home for humanity.

That's the "secret" planet Earth, the undisclosed 13th Colony. Next time you hear of an Unidentified Flying Object or yet another mysterious crop circle, don't casually think "aliens."

STARBUCK is now a young woman (below, Katee Sackhoff). But wait, he was a young man 27 years ago (above, Dirk Benedict).



The alterations

Remember Dirk Benedict as the brilliant but reckless pilot Starbuck in the 1978 blockbuster series? The word was "cute." But you can forget him now. The character's become a girl—all right, alpha female—played by Katee Sackhoff.

Just as well.

Sackhoff bats the breeze with Benedict in a pre-production video interview presented to the journalists at the HBO-Cinemax Singapore headquarters. With her blonde hair, pretty face and whistle-bait bod, she is still more masculine than the former matinee idol.

Benedict, were he called on board for the remake, might have opted to play the cyborg Number Six. The very first episode will explain this little digression.

WRITER-executive producer Ronald Moore

Human frailty and science-fiction are not contradictory or incompatible, says Ronald Moore, writer-producer of the new 'Battlestar Galactica'

This is not the only alteration that Moore deemed necessary for "Galactica." Anticipating adverse reaction for the changes, since the original series did manage to generate something of a cult following, he has a message to the fans:

"Here lies a slumbering giant, its name known to many, its voice remembered by but a few. For a brief moment (the first episode was released in theaters; the series ran for one season), it strode the Earth, telling tall tales of things that never were, then stumbled over a rating point and fell into a deep sleep.

"I think there's life in that old giant. But I think that poking him with a stick and expecting him to leap to his feet and resume his journey as if no time had passed would serve only to hasten his final death throes. He needs a makeover. Especially that '70s hair!"

What Moore did was to make the story more complicated, "make the people less black-and-white," the better, he said, to "challenge us, provoke us, grab us by the throat ... and dare us to invest ourselves in flawed characters who face ambiguous choices in an imperfect world ... dare us to root for heroes with all-too-human weaknesses."

SHE'S once, twice, three times a robot

As for the cancer-stricken lead, Moore tells Inquirer Entertainment: "Some medical mysteries may never be mastered by science." Indeed, the affliction here may just be symbolic.

"Our goal is nothing less than the reinvention of the science-fiction television series," says the writer-producer. Weird-looking creatures and almost-humans with multihued globes for heads are not his cup of space dust.

Techno treats

But Raptors and Vipers (flying war craft), nuclear devices and humongous space installations are. This aspect is pushed to the awesome limits. And Moore doesn't even consider himself a strictly sci-fi movie writer!

Really, this could be a stand-alone series, independent of "Battlestar Galactica," but that's another story. All Moore says to this observation is, "Admittedly, we were both helped and hurt [by the title and association]."

But he assures the next generation of "Galactica" viewers that, as executive producer, he took "everything" into consideration, including the fact that the new series may still have to be viewed on small screens "or even non-color."

This could be workable visually, but for sure the music and sound effects—compelling, creative, vital on a properly sized and modern TV—wouldn't be the same on an old set.

Even so, this should not cause the series to stray from Moore's basic intentions. He reiterates: "This story is character-driven. We believe that science fiction provides an opportunity to explore our own society, to provoke debate and to challenge our perceptions of ourselves and our fellowmen."

The characters' defects, as it were (an unforgiving son, a scientist lusting after a robot, to name a couple) do not worry him, either. "We believe that to portray human beings as flawed creations does not weaken them, it strengthens them."

As for the remakes' sexy scenes, Moore invokes realism: "We believe that bringing realism to science fiction is neither contradictory nor foolhardy. We believe you can explore adult themes with adult characters and still tell a ripping good yarn."

("Battlestar Galactica" the 2005 miniseries, was given the Saturn Award for Best Television Presentation by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, USA; and was nominated for three Emmy Awards. It stars Edward James Olmos and Mary McDonnell, and premieres with The Beginning, Part 1 on Saturday, July 2, 9 p.m.; Part 2 the next evening also at 9. All succeeding new episodes air seven succeeding Sundays, 9 p.m. Cinemax is an HBO movie channel.)

KC takes centerstage

From page A2-1

Yet another precious pointer is from Ma'am Lea.

KC recalls: "I flubbed the last verse of a song and she told me, 'We're all just human; all you can do in that situation is calm down and do what you have to do.'"

Even offstage, she knows, her Atlantis experience will help her. "It will push me to become a better person. Theater people are not show biz or shallow."

She's just as impressed with her fellow Belle, Karel Marquez. "We support each other. Any talk of rivalry is silly."

In September, KC resumes studies in Paris: She is in third year college, taking up International Communications in the Corporate Track.

Mom Sharon is pleased with KC's "productive" summer vacation.

She recounts the first time she saw her daughter onstage (last June 26) for INQUIRER Entertainment: "She was Belle. She was spunky and elegant at the same time. Her voice was clear and strong. I'm proud of her."

While Sharon was on a concert tour of the US recently, Lea and director Bobby Garcia instructed KC to keep her mom "in the dark" about details of the play.

"They wanted to surprise her," KC remembers. "I didn't show her the pictures and newspaper articles, but her friends kept texting her about the show!"

Finally, she sent mom an SMS herself—short, sweet and sincere: "I told her that each and every performance was for her."

With each show, KC says, she is growing with Belle. "Her adventure is now my adventure. I've become schizophrenic. I am living her life. Every night, I embark on her journey and I get excited for her."

("Beauty and the Beast" runs until July 16.)

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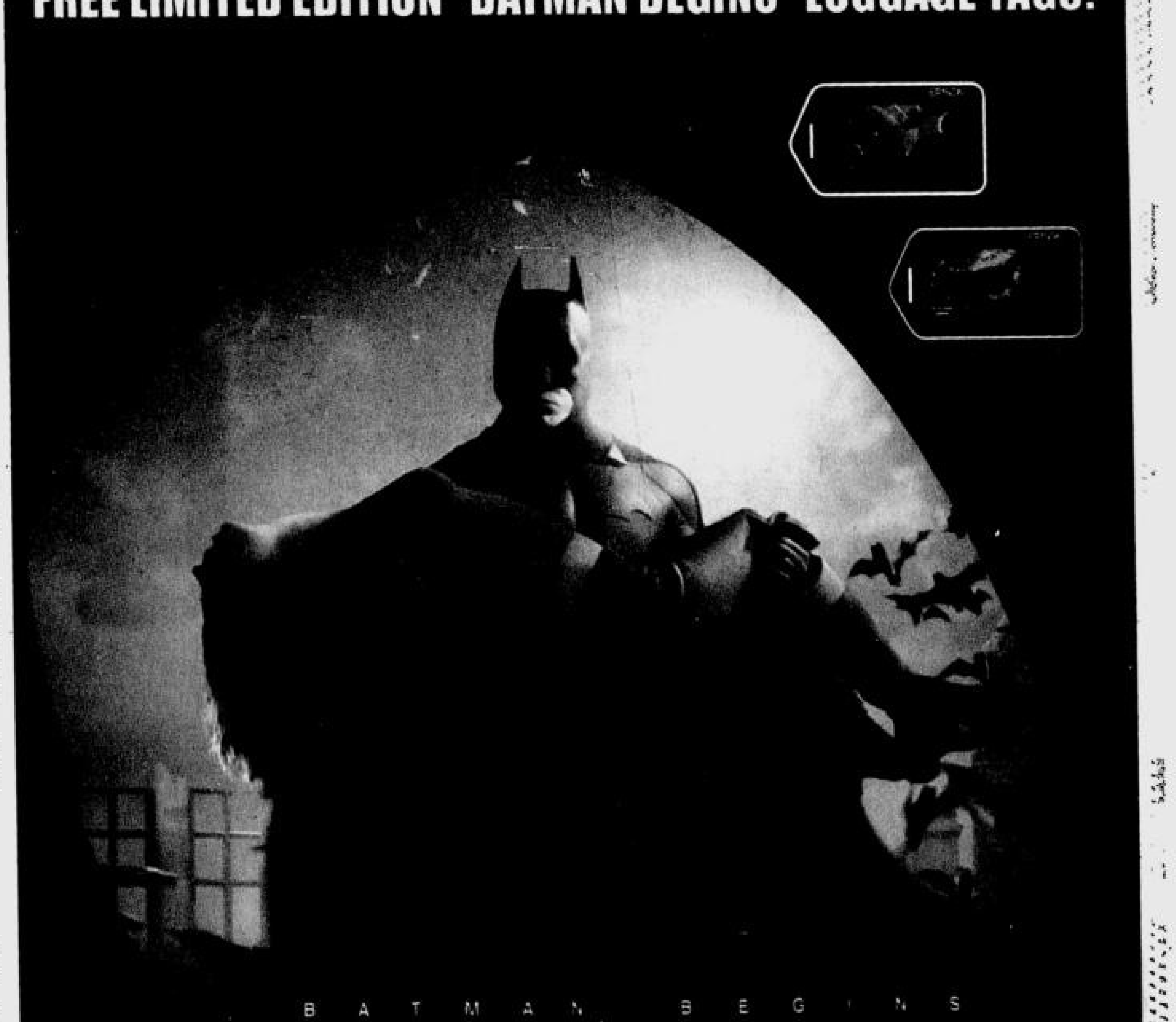

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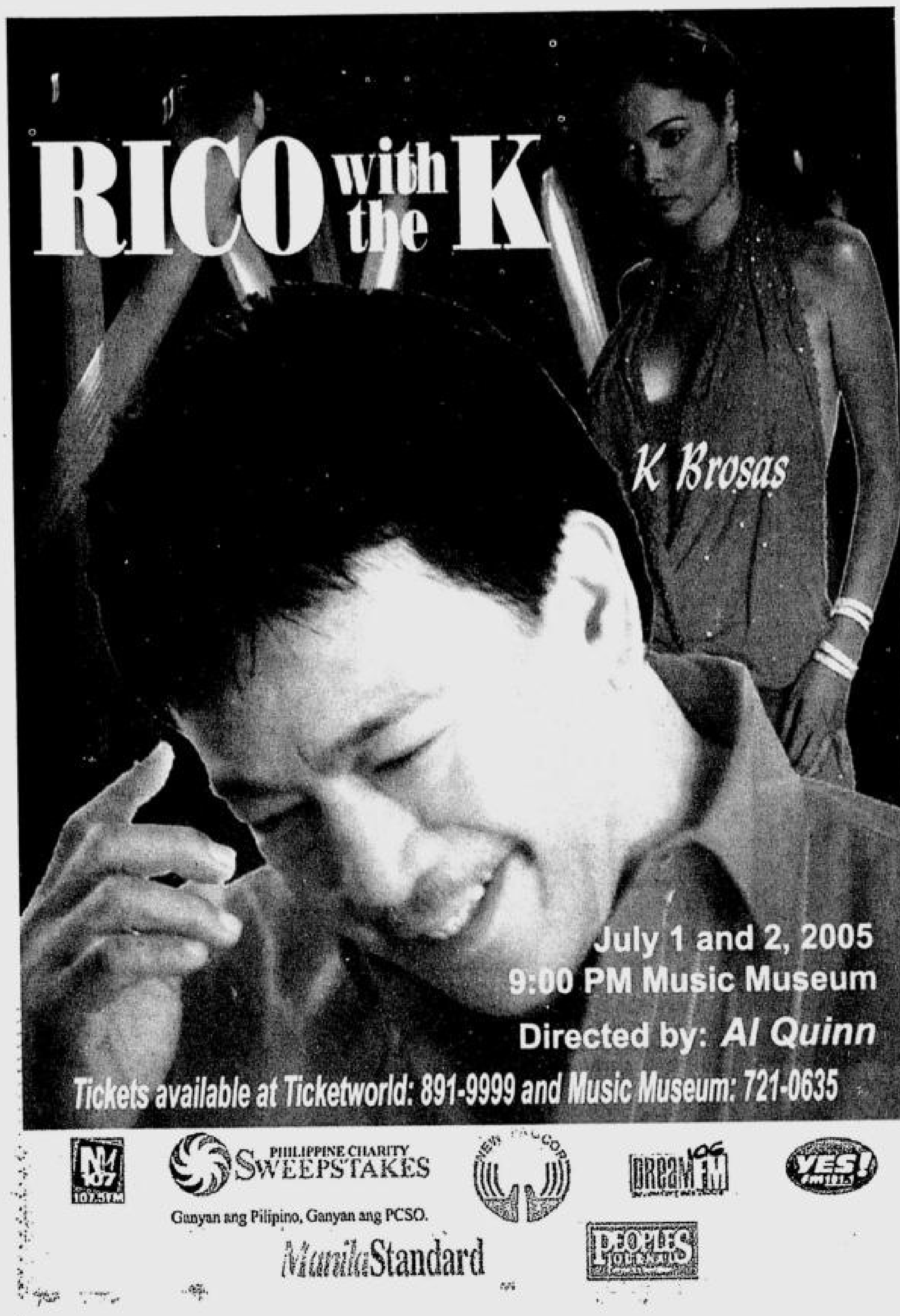

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Galaxy Records' "Pinoy Fresh" album is a multi-layered, multi-colored musical concoction that's cooling and satisfying.

The ingredients are pop, acoustic, even novelty and "alternative" cuts.

Stella, first known as a movie star, sings of lost love, telling a story in "Cry Over You" that women of this generation will find touchingly familiar.

Singer-songwriter Pat Dylan has two contributions—"I Love You" and "You're Still Here"—his voice in the mold of his idols Jim Croce, James Taylor and Glen Frey of the Eagles.

TV host-commercial model Shermaine Santiago has three love songs—"Glow," "Sometimes" and "I'll Be Fine."

Rae Adelaine Cabrera, also a commercial model, is billed simply as "Rae." Her song, "Set Me Free" is one of the outstanding cuts.

There are two entries aimed at the younger set, "Miskol" by 13-year-old Kerubin, and "Text Na Lang Kita" by Jenn.

But it is Aleck Bovick who will surely elicit chuckles with her naughty rendition of "Gusto Ko Ang Nota," about a music lover.

The vocal harmonies of Third String makes the song "Magtiwala Ka" a strong attraction as well.

STELLA Ruiz

Bold Jaya in steamy video scenes with Paolo Bediones

Jaya surprises once more in the music video for "Di Na Ba Kita Mapipigilan," carrier single of her latest album, entitled "Fall In Love Again," under Viva Records.

In the video directed by GB Sampedro, Jaya stars opposite TV host and model Paolo Bediones as her boyfriend who leaves to work abroad.

The duo's steamy scenes are sure to give people plenty to talk about. Jaya, definitely at her sexiest and most seductive in this music video, even went for the wet look.

The new album, marks Jaya's homecoming to Viva, It contains 14 cuts: "Fall In Love Again (originally by Anne Murray), "Ako'y Sa 'Yo (Ogie Alcasid), "Look What You've Done To Me (originally by David Foster, but rearranged by Jay Durias of South Border), "Aanhin Pa" (Emerson Texon), "Bakit Di Mo Sasabihin," (duet with Ogie Alcasid), "Kung Ako'y Iiwan Mo" (George Canseco), "Pagkukunwari (Vehnee Saturno), "The Answer Is Love (Barbie Dumlao), "My Love" (arranged by Mark Lopez and produced by Ogie Alcasid), "Sa Duyan Ng Pag-Ibig" (Willy Cruz) and a jazzed-up version of the Visayan love song "Matud Nila," also rearranged and produced by Jay Durias.

Jaya says she is very happy about the way her revitalized career is unfolding. But she admits it took some time and effort to get rid of the emotional baggage she was carrying around from her past. "When you have negative baggage, you have to get rid of it or it will pull you down," she says. "You have to do what makes you happy." In her case, without a doubt, this means making music. "Nothing comes close," she adds.

"Fall In Love Again," sponsored by Discovery Suites and Godiva, is now available in CDs and cassettes at all major record stores nationwide.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, June 30, 2005

LIVE 8 ABC

WORLD'S BIGGEST CONCERT, SATURDAY 10 PM

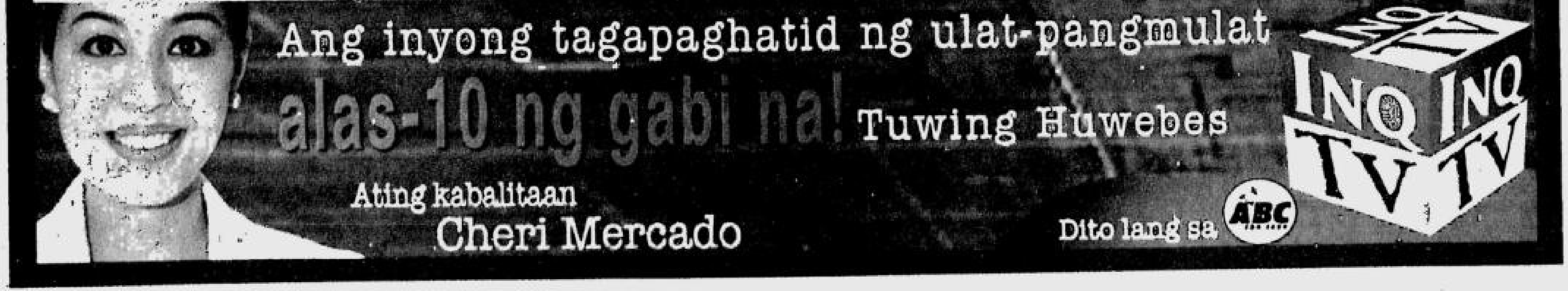
20 years after the biggest performers in the world gathered to "feed the world" on Live Aid, a monumental concert is set to happen in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and Philadelphia to call on world leaders at the coming G8 Summit to end poverty globally!

"LIVE 8" features stars like Bob Geldof, U2, Madonna, Mariah Carey, Coldplay, Dido, Keane, Elton John, Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, Sting, REM, Joss Stone, The Cure, A-Ha, Will Smith, Maroon 5, Jon Bon Jovi, P. Diddy, 50 Cent, Jay -Z, Andrea Bocelli and more!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Cpids	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		FIBA (Reruns)				Sentro	American Idol			The Best Of Guinness Book Of Records		Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras		Dama		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		TBA	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider	WWE PPV Summer Slam 2004					Band Of Brothers		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Shakey's V-League				Sunstar 9-Ball Challenge			IBC News Tonite		
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Just For Laughs	Ride With Funk Master Flex					Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip-Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	MYX Firsts	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX	Star MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One		Ala Diyan Huwag Mo Akong Ligawan				Walang Karugtong Ang Nakaraan				Boy Negro				Pepeng Agimat				Bayaning 3rd World	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Chefs On The Go
AXN		Fear Factor		CSI: NY (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season I)		The Associates		Alias (Season III)		Worst Case Scenario		Lost		Fright Night II			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Invasion Iowa	Growing Up Gotti	The Simple Life	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Friends	Invasion Iowa
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic		Frontlines Of Construction		Marine Machine		Demolition Dynasty		Wildlife Detectives	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Frontlines Of Construction		Marine Machine	
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		IBF Japan Open '05		Philippine-Qatar Goodwill Games					In This Corner		Sports Desk	NBA Greatest Game				NBA Jam	NBA Special
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fall	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		Area		Road & Track	Back To Basics
HBO		Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde (3:15 PM)				Force 10 From Navarone				Six: The Mark Unleashed (7:10 PM)				The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King					
Star Movies			Stark Raving Mad (3:45 PM)				She's The One (5:25 PM)			The River Wild (7:05 PM)				The Statement				Tremors 3: Back To Perfection	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Zoids Fuzors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
ESPN		U.S. Open Golf Championship 3rd Round								U.S. Open Golf C'ship		Sportscenter Asia	World Pool Masters '04 Ann Zoo, Holland		Major League Baseball				
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	George Of The Jungle 2			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Treasure Planet	
Cinemax	Cop & 1/2			Deadly Messages			Reality Bites (5:45 PM)				Deep Evil			Body Double			American Pie The Wedding		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Strong Medicine		Boyfriend For Christmas			Judging Amy (10:35 PM)		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		First Time Film Makers	Hour China	Wild Discovery		Wild Weather		Extreme Machines		We Built This City		The Ultimate Guide		Extraordinary Experiences: Journey To The Ends Of The Earth: The Road To Shangri-La		Power Zone	
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL		Lokal Orange & Lemons	MTV Divas		Battle for Ozzfest	One Bad Trip	Wildboyz	Cribs	On Board at MTV	MTV Urban Beats	VH1: Video Collection	
Sports Plus						Get A Grip On Golf	Monster Jam	Raceworld		World's Greatest Auto Shows	Tour De France	French Open '05 Finals				Tour De France			

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
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THURSDAY,
JUNE 30, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

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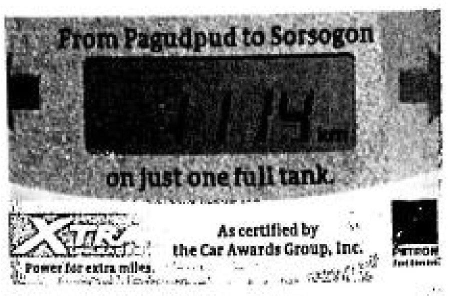
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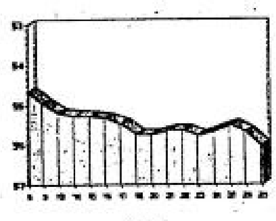
Fitch to retain RP ratings outlook

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE


JUNE

₱ 56.050 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 29, 2005

¥ 110.34 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 29, 2005

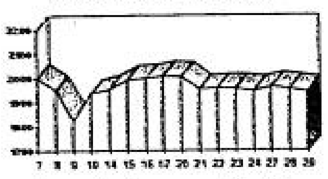
GOLD: $435.00-435.50
per ounce Hong Kong, June 29, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.52% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.52 percent lower yesterday, extending losses as investors preferred to cash out of the market given persistent political concerns and high crude oil prices, dealers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

They said selective bargain-hunting limited the downside, with some still confident the Philippines has enough economic positives to merit attention, especially recent government efforts to resolve a chronic fiscal deficit.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 10.08 points to 1,945.12, the low for the day and off a high of 1,956.25. Turnover was 160.2 million shares worth P1.29 billion.

The broader all-shares index gained 0.18 points to 1,187.20.

Losers outnumbered gainers 40 to 23, while 56 stocks ended unchanged.

SHARES/ B4

'Our view right now is that (Arroyo) will ride this out'

RATINGS agency Fitch said yesterday it did not plan to change its stable outlook on the Philippines' sovereign ratings despite concerns about political scandals undermining President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We're still confident that the stable outlook is appropriate," James McCormack, head of Asia sovereign ratings for Fitch, told Reuters on the sidelines of an investment seminar in Shanghai.

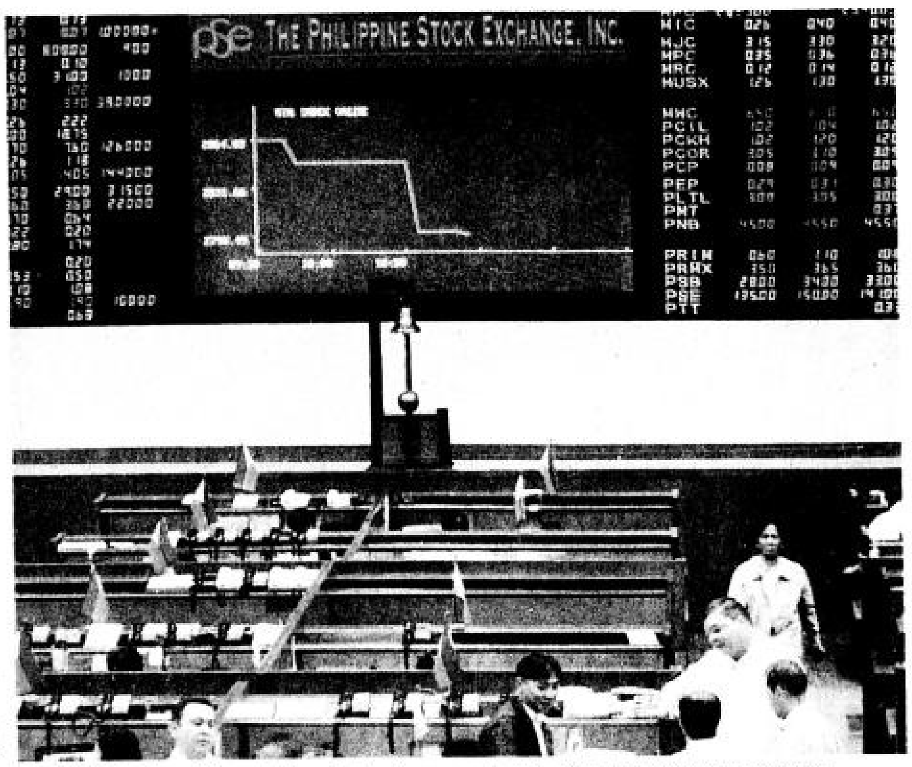
"If the political scandal starts to affect the implementation of the fiscal package, such that it starts to unravel or unwind then I think that we'd have to have another look at it.

"That hasn't happened, we don't think it's going to happen. Our view right now is that she will ride this out."

Fitch raised in May the outlook on its BB long-term foreign currency rating and BB-plus long-term local currency rating to stable from negative, citing fiscal reforms taken by the government that will cut its chronic fiscal deficit.

The improved outlook came after the government passed a bill to increase its broad value-added sales tax to 12 percent from 10 percent next year, in an effort to cut its burgeon-

FITCH/ B4


THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE, INC.

TRADERS gather in front of an electronic screen showing the downward trend at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Share prices closed 0.52 percent lower yesterday. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Asia economies worry over high oil /B2
Corruption major block in doing business in RP /B2
Rice farmers fear Asean FTA /B4
Makati Med needs P300M to P500M in new money/B3

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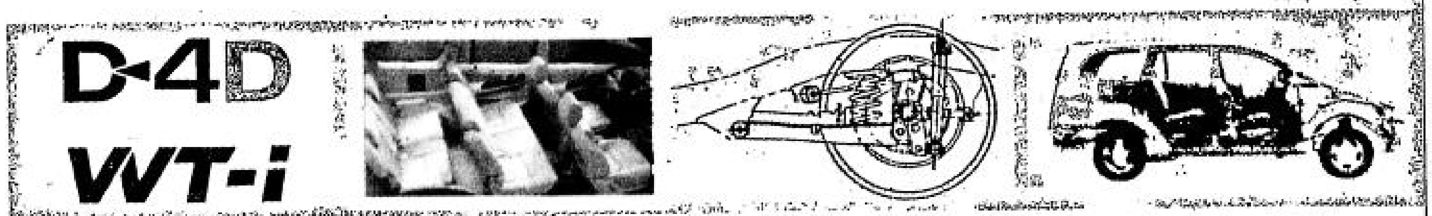

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AMCHAM SURVEY

88% of US firms say corruption major block in doing business

By Abigail L. Ho

MANY American firms operating in the country regard corruption as one of the biggest impediments to doing business in the country, a recent survey by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) revealed.

Results of the AmCham Outlook, the fourth annual survey of members of the various AmChams in the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) region, show that 88 percent of Philippine respondents identified corruption as "a source of high dissatisfaction."

"This, in combination with weak laws and regulations, has a significant effect on investment decisions and hampers business competitiveness," AmCham Philippines executive director Robert Sears yesterday said in a statement.

Another stumbling block to doing business here was the poor infrastructure—the same concern raised by AmCham members in Indonesia and Vietnam.

Office lease costs, once regarded as a comparative advantage, now did not seem to count among the country's come-ons for American firms, as AmCham members here, like those in Thailand, no longer view this as a strength for their operations.

For the whole of Asia, 81 percent of the American senior managers surveyed across the region believed Asia's contribution to their firms' worldwide revenues and operations would go up in the next two years.

Around 80 percent of them said they would expand their Asian business operations.

"Our members have become more cautious about the future outlook for the global and local economies," Sears said. "But Asia is believed to have continued growth opportunities."

"Asian markets are clearly regarded as increasingly important to a company's international competitiveness and continued growth," he added. "This is a sentiment shared by a majority of members in all the surveyed Asean countries."

As a testament to the American firms' confidence in the Asian region, almost half of the surveyed executives said they would expand their workforce between 10 percent and 50 percent.

Some 40 percent of respondents said they would maintain current employee levels.

The survey was commissioned by AmCham members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam, and covered AmChams in the Asean region, all of which represented an estimated $50 billion in regional investments.

It was conducted by the Gallup Organization from April 19 to May 10.

Consumer confidence still above average

By Christine A. Gaylican

WITH world prices of fuel on the rise, Filipino consumers still have the means to buy new clothes, mobile phones, DVD players and digital cameras, said global research firm ACNielsen Global Corp.

Three out of every 10 Filipinos in Manila feel that the products are basic necessities, and no political event could discourage them from buying these things over the next few months, according to the ACNielsen in its April 11-May 10 survey.

The survey reveals that, while the rest of the people in the Asia-Pacific region are busy paying up debts and saving up for the future, Filipinos are keen to invest their hard-earned cash in new technology-based items such as mobile phones and digital cameras.

"This places consumer confidence among Filipino buyers at a high of 94 percent, still above the average of 92 percent in the Asia Pacific Region," said Esther J. Capistrano, ACNielsen Philippines managing director.

The ACNielsen survey was carried out across the globe. There are over 500 respondents from the Philippines, 70 percent of whom are based in Metro Manila.

The majority of the respondents to the ACNielsen survey are professionals, students and housewives coming from social classes A to C.

The survey showed that, with regard to priorities, some 30 percent of the respondents would spend their money on new clothes, 25 percent on new technology, 21 percent on entertainment, and 24 percent on holidays and vacation.

Forty-three percent also said they would spend part of their money to pay back loans and credit card debts.

The survey said that some 63 percent of the respondents in the country would place their money in savings. Only 7 percent would set aside funds for retirement. A mere 12 percent would invest in the equity or stock market, and mutual funds.

According to Capistano, the highest concern of Filipino respondents, when it comes to economic matters, is gaining employment. The second is maintaining good health.

"The least of their concerns were crime and war or insurgency," she said.

"(In the Philippines), consumers are neither upbeat nor very pessimistic, which has been the case in the previous six months," Capistrano added. "This has to be watched closely."

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ANOTHER FEATHER IN TAIPAN'S CAP

The Western Mindanao State University confers the degree Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa, on taipan Lucio Tan (second from left) during the 2005 general assembly of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges in Zamboanga City. Dr. Tan is shown with (from left): Dr. Luningning Umar, Dr. Carlito Puno, and Dr. Eldigario Gonzales.

MB may keep rates despite peso fall

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board is likely to keep its interest rates steady when it meets for its monthly policy rate setting today.

According to Amando Tetangco Jr., Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officer-in-charge, the country may be reeling from skyrocketing oil prices, continuing increases in US interest rates and the sharp weakening of the peso, but there is probably still no need for another upward adjustment in the overnight rates at this time.

"We look at not only the (inflation) forecasts, but the factors behind the forecast," Tetangco told reporters at the sidelines of a forum by the Economic Intelligence Unit. "Right now, we see inflation driven mainly by supply-side factors."

In his speech during the forum, Tetangco noted that there was no strong evidence of pressures from the demand, or consumer spending, side.

He cited the slowdown in economic growth in the first quarter as against year-ago levels, the spare labor force, and the moderate bank lending activity.

"Domestic liquidity has continued to grow, but within the program of the BSP," Tetangco said. "We don't think this is a cause of inflationary pressure at this time. Given this, we've basically maintained the stance of monetary policy."

The MB, the BSP's highest policy-making body, last raised its key overnight rates by 25 basis points in April. It was a preemptive move against rising global oil prices, which were already seen driving up inflationary pressures.

The BSP's overnight borrowing, or reverse repurchase rate, now stands at 7 percent and the overnight lending, or repurchase rate, at 9.25 percent.

Given the domestic political tension that has caused the peso to give up most of its gains since the start of the year, most analysts see the BSP hiking its overnight rates very soon, according to a recent INQUIRER survey.

Tetangco said that the BSP would not want to see the exchange rate aggravating inflationary pressures.

"That doesn't seem to be the case right now," he said.

Asia economies worry over high oil prices

SEOUL, South Korea—Surging oil prices could curb Asia's economies, with some analysts predicting the fast-growing region—heavily dependent on oil imports—could slip into a recession if prices don't recede.

With oil prices about 50 percent higher than a year ago, the warnings are starting to mount.

South Korea's central bank said higher crude prices could shave 0.7 percentage points off economic growth this year and raise consumer prices.

The Philippines has warned of a "heavy toll." Officials in Japan, the world's No. 1 oil importer, and Malaysia are voicing concerns.

"High oil prices are already weighing on growth in Asian economies," Andy Xie, economist at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, wrote in a report this week. "If oil prices do not recede, Asia could slide into recession in the short term."

After rising to a record close of $60.54 a barrel on Monday, crude oil prices fell back some, granting the region's importers a reprieve.

In Asian trading Wednesday, light, sweet crude for August delivery was down a cent at US$58.19 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. But traders said prices could easily test the US$60 mark again.

Asia's heavy reliance on oil imports, mostly from the Middle East, means higher crude prices quickly translate into higher costs for a wide range of companies—from airlines and steelmakers to computer makers and fisheries.

Consumers will also have to divert more of their spending to cover higher utility and gasoline bills. The overall effect could seriously restrain economic growth.

Also, Asian oil consumers have had to pay slightly higher prices because there is less competition among suppliers than in other parts of the world. This so-called "Asian premium" can run as high as US$1.50 a barrel.

But the region's economic diversity—ranging from industrial behemoths like Japan, South Korea and China, to smaller economies like Singapore and Hong Kong and advanced consumer societies like Australia—means the oil price impact can vary substantially.

While the economic projection is far from suggesting a recession, economist Xie warns that the impact of higher Dubai crude, an Asian benchmark, can already be seen in Thailand and South Korea.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday said that "GDP will definitely be affected by the oil price rise."

Export-dependent Singapore and Japan appear to be more concerned about a global slowdown triggered by higher energy costs. Singaporean officials predict economic growth of between 3-5 percent this year, down sharply from nearly 8.5 percent in 2004.

"There may be a gradual indirect effect on the Japanese economy," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda, the top government spokesman, said recently on oil price hikes. "We are worried there may be a major negative impact on the world economy."

Rob Subbaraman, an economist at Lehman Brothers in Tokyo, and his colleagues lowered their 2005 growth forecast for Asian economies excluding Japan to 6.3 percent from 6.7 percent—but dismissed the idea of a serious slump across Asia.

"We expect a bigger impact from higher prices this year than last year," Subbaraman said. "We are not close to forecasting a recession for the region." AP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 29, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.55	16,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	31	31	375,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49	49.5	48.5	48.5	573,000
China Banking Corp.	775	775	775	775	220
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	100,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49.5	50	9,200
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	30	346,800
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	500
Philippine National Bank	43.5	45.5	43.5	45	234,800
Philippine Trust Co.	53	53	53	53	100
Security Bank Corp.	25	25	25	25	30,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2690	2690	2690	2690	710
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	9,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	141	141	141	80
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1860	1895	1860	1895	5,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	92,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.08	3,248,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	800	805	18,690
Ipeople Inc.	4.15	4.15	3.9	3.95	518,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	1,600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	180,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	2,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,101,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1640	1640	1630	1635	428,400
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	90,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	6,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	15	15	27,300
Manila Electric Co. B	22.5	22.75	22.25	22.5	99,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	5,302,000
Petron Corp.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	475,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	21,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	328,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	80,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1	1,170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	56,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	68,300
San Miguel Pure Foods A	82	82	56	56	200
RFM Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.8	0.8	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	96,100
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92.5	92	92.5	136,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	325	325	322.5	322.5	85,470
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.7	4.75	4.7	4.75	180,000
Ajo Net Holdings, Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	4,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	237,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	220,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.53	630,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	5,153,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	2,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.55	2,350,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	199,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.2	490,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46.5	47	46.5	47	115,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	3,200,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	177,000
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	372,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	741,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	6,530,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	669,030
South China Resources Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	730,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	4,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	80,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	5,217,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.08	1.18	1.08	1.14	7,005,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	62,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	860,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,730,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.9	10,310,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	590,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	1,480,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,590,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	561,000
City & Land Developers	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	124,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	130,000
Primex Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	30,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.5	103,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	416,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	29,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	253,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	770,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	3,650,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	20,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	1,100,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	24.5	24.75	2,703,800
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	650,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	35,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	2,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000

DISCLOSURES

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 19; 3 p.m. at Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 1 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications clarified a news article. There were no formal actions undertaken by the company to raise Tier 2 capital through the issuance of subordinated debt in light of the recent P3 billion capital infusion by major shareholders that brought the bank's capital base to P9.3 billion as of end-2004.

* * *

APEX Mining Co. Inc. disclosed that the company is authorized to assign Jake Mining Corp. all rights arising from a favorable outcome of the cases pending with the Supreme Court.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp.'s principal officers Alberto O. Villa-Abrille Jr. and Faustino F. Galang sold 7,079 and 12,186 class B shares respectively, both on June 27.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. disclosed that director, chair and CEO James L. Go acquired 2,000,000 of the company's common shares on June 23, bringing a total of 213,784,656 common shares. ***Compiled by Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 29, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.829325	1.000000	55.5790
Japan	Yen	0.007541	0.009093	0.5054
United Kingdom	Pound	1.505474	1.815300	100.8926
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106726	0.128690	7.1525
Switzerland	Franc	0.647252	0.780457	43.3770
Canada	Dollar	0.673482	0.812084	45.1348
Singapore	Dollar	0.493146	0.594636	33.0493
Australia	Dollar	0.632686	0.762893	42.4008
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.199976	2.652731	147.4361
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221148	0.266660	14.8207
Brunei	Dollar	0.491685	0.592874	32.9513
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000103	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020114	0.024254	1.3480
UAE	Dirham	0.225802	0.272272	15.1326
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.205800	67.0172
Argentina	Peso	0.286666	0.345662	19.2115
Brazil	Real	0.350740	0.422922	23.5056
Denmark	Kroner	0.134254	0.161883	8.9973
India	Rupee	0.019083	0.023010	1.2789
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218273	0.263193	14.6280
Mexico	New Peso	0.076825	0.092635	5.1486
New Zealand	Dollar	0.580597	0.700084	38.9100
South Africa	Rand	0.125274	0.151055	8.3955
Korea	Won	0.000810	0.000977	0.0543
Sweden	Kroner	0.106198	0.128054	7.1171
Syria	Pound	0.015976	0.019264	1.0707
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026425	0.031863	1.7709

OPERATING AT A LOSS

Makati Med needs ₱300M to ₱500M in new money

By Clarissa S. Batino

MAKATI Medical Center Inc. is in urgent need of P100 million in fresh capital to suppress its financial hemorrhage, the company's top official said.

But Gabino Mendoza, Makati Med president and chief executive officer, said he would like to raise between P300 and P500 million in new money to pay off debts, buy new equipment for systems improvement and, if possible, do some refurbishing to attract more patients.

"Banks said we need at least P100 million," Mendoza said in an interview. "If we can raise a sufficient amount of new capital, then maybe we can borrow again to expand."

Makati Med is restructuring P1.2 billion in bank loans with an average maturity of six years. Mendoza said the medical center wanted to stretch out the maturity to at least 10 years.

The hospital is suffering from liquidity problems, according to its president.

Banks normally required borrowers to maintain a one-is-to-one ratio of current assets to current liabilities. But for every peso of Makati Med's assets, it has P4 in liabilities.

As part of the overall corporate restructuring, the ailing hospital elected a new set of board of directors.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel Pangilinan, and former Philippine National Bank chair Francisco Dizon, were elected as independent directors.

The other new members of the 11-member board are Mendoza, Judy Araneta-Roxas and Cristina Antonio M.D. The remaining six directors are incumbent.

The new board would meet on July 5 to elect the hospital's new officers. Mendoza said the owners appointed him last month as interim chief executive.

Makati Med sustained P300 million in losses in the last three years due to a faulty accounting system. It discovered the losses only in December 2004. Before that, the hospital thought it was still earning.

As the problems unraveled, the hospital soon discovered it had 500 employees it could do without. Management laid off 300 in May and paid them P150 million in benefits. Mendoza said they were studying whether to downsize further.

Mendoza said the hospital could save about P100 million a year with the 300 job cuts.

Asked if the hospital was mismanaged, the new president said: "If I say there was mismanagement, it would sound as if it was the only reason. But it's not."

True there were "lapses," Mendoza said. "Some people identified with the lapses are already gone."

Increased competition, Mendoza said, also brought down Makati Med's occupancy rate to 60 percent from about 80 percent three years ago. New medical centers, like the Asian Hospital, have been sprouting up recently.

Older ones, like the Medical City and St. Luke's Hospital, have had a facelift. But Makati Med, because of mounting financial troubles, was unable to keep up.

Pangilinan is one of several that the hospital owners were negotiating with to infuse new capital, Mendoza said.

The P100 million in new money must come in "very soon," according to Mendoza. The rest can be staggered between now and June 2006.

Makati Med was founded in the 1960s by Dr. Constantino P. Manahan, Dr. Jose Y. Fores, Dr. Mariano M. Alimurung, Dr. Carlos L. Sevilla and Luis Ma. Araneta.

The other six founders are Romeo Gustilo, Manuel Fernandez Sr., Jorge Araneta, Raul Fores, Julieta Ledesma and Daniel Go.

About one-third of the hospital's shares are controlled by the Fores and Araneta families. About 25 percent are held by the heirs of the other founders like the Manahans and the Alimurungs. The rest are owned by more than 100 doctors connected with the hospital.

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Tap OFWs to increase investments, gov't urged

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Donald Dee said officials in Northern Luzon should tap the economic power of overseas Filipino workers to push investment programs in the region.

"[Local residents and officials] should target the Ilocanos, Cordillerans, Kapampangans and Pangasinenses who are working overseas as investors. [We should rely on] those who have [established their] economic niches abroad to pour money into local business opportunities," Dee said in his keynote speech during the opening of the 14th North Luzon Area Business Conference at the Cagayan provincial capitol last week.

He said government and business leaders in Northern Luzon should sustain an aggressive investment promotion program to attract local and foreign investors.

"People with money [to invest] here must know what kinds of business they can enter into, where those businesses should be put up, how well their investments are protected, how fast can they get the legal papers, and all those details that make doing business easier, faster, cheaper and more profitable to investors," he said.

Citing the Subic Bay Freeport as an example, Dee said the former American naval base started to attract investors following aggressive marketing and advertising campaigns by former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair and now Sen. Richard Gordon.

Dee said Gordon tapped the media, exploited information technology and the Internet, and "practically went to the world's major capitals to sell Subic as an investment and tourist haven."

Dee said the infrastructure and workforce available in Northern and Central Luzon would help these areas attract investments from mainland Asia.

He said North Luzon provinces were near major ports in Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and China.

Basic infrastructure support to trade and industry, like power plants, airports and seaports can also be found in the region, he said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BCDA talks revenue sharing with Peza

BAGUIO CITY—The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is offering the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) a 3-percent share of the revenues from all BCDA-administered economic zones, which recently lost their financial privileges following a Supreme Court ruling.

The earnings are payments for Peza's decision to adopt these BCDA economic zones, according to information recently released here by BCDA Chair Filadelfo Rojas.

The revenues will be computed against the lease rentals to be collected by the BCDA economic zones.

But Peza chair Lilia de Lima was negotiating for a 5-percent share instead, now that BCDA had applied the Clark Special Economic Zone and its 608 registered businesses for Peza benefits, according to documents provided by the BCDA.

BCDA asked Peza to accommodate the economic zones of Camp John Hay and Poro Point last week.

All three zones lost their tax incentives after the Supreme Court ruled that Republic Act No. 7227, which created BCDA, did not give BCDA-run economic zones the same tax benefits it granted the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The ruling addressed the constitutionality challenge filed in 1994 by Baguio residents against Presidential Proclamation 420, which created the John Hay economic zone.

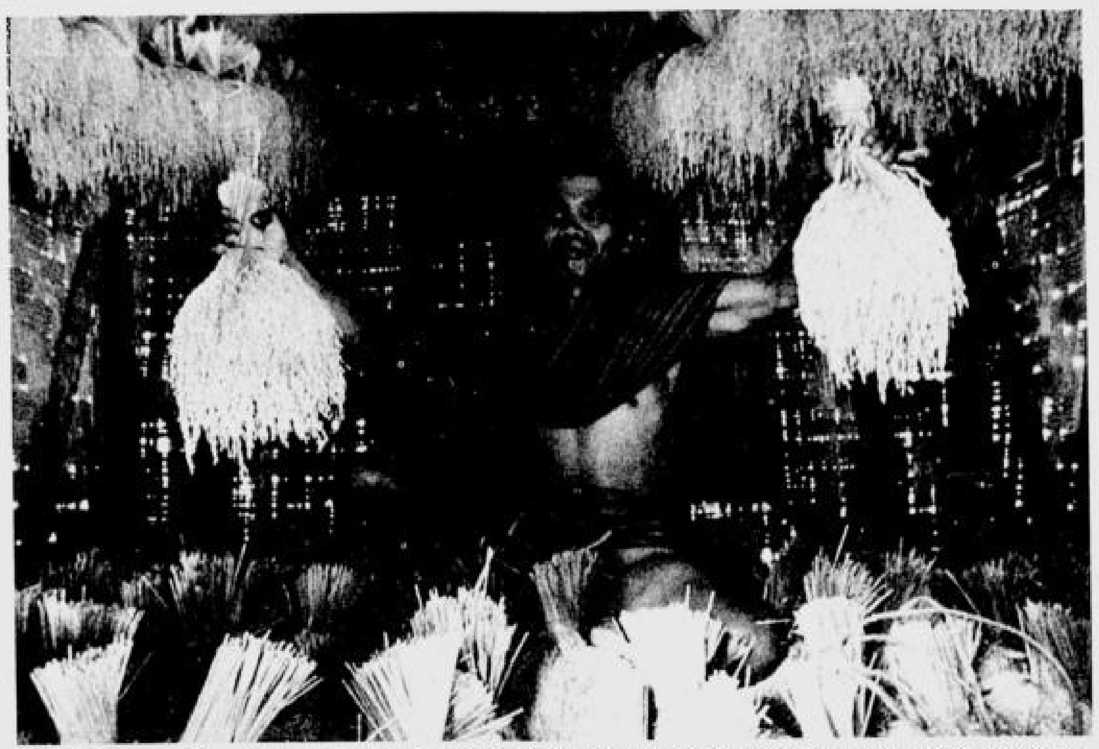
The Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco), the developers owned by Fil Estate and Penta Capital, immediately suspended payments of current and outstanding rental dues amounting to P2.2 billion, citing the impact of the court ruling on their contract.

The court, in a resolution on March 29 this year, affirmed with finality its 2003 ruling, which the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) questioned.

The Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila), which represents 352 locators, recently set off a plan to lobby for the retention of their perks, after the Department of Finance implemented the ruling by withdrawing Clark's tax incentives in a revenue regulation policy.

"Cila will lobby for a legislation that will correct the situation," Carmen Tayag-McTavish, Cila president, said.

Lyssa Pagano-Calde, BCDA spokesperson, said it was CJHDevco which suggested applying for Peza benefits when they discussed the court decision with former BCDA president Rufo Colayco. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with reports from Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



IFUGAO farmers take pride in their traditional ways of cultivating rice. But with the coming free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, planting rice may become a thing of the past. EV ESPIRITU

Rice farmers fear Asean FTA

KIANGAN, Ifugao—Rice farmers are worried that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) free trade agreement, which takes effect in 2010, would severely affect their livelihood.

Shubert Ciencia, spokesperson of Rice Watch Action Network of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, said the quality of life of three million rice farmers and their families would be affected when the government pursues importation of cheaper rice five years from now.

Ciencia said what the government should do is produce enough food so that farmers could continue tilling their lands.

He said groups campaigning for the local farmers' welfare were raising their concerns to trade and domestic policy makers of the rice industry, as the implementation of the Asean free trade agreement nears.

He said farmers also fear the expiration of the quantitative restrictions on rice this month.

These restrictions were granted to developing countries, such as the Philippines and South Korea, so they could catch up with rice production.

The Philippines, meanwhile, has asked for an extension of the quantitative restrictions.

The country is lagging behind China in rice production.

China produces an average of 5.8 to 6 metric tons a hectare, while the Philippines and Burma are producing 2.2 to 2.8 metric tons a hectare.

In 2002, a kilo of the imported rice from Thailand was P7 and Vietnamese rice, P6.70.

But the cheapest rice in the country in that year was P15.

"At present, even if we impose 100 percent tariff on imported rice, they still cost much cheaper. Consumers tend to buy cheaper rice with better quality like the Thai rice compared to rice from the National Food Authority," Ciencia said.

"When people buy imported rice, what will happen to our rice and to our farmers?" he asked. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Texas Instruments to source power from Binga plant

BAGUIO CITY—Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. (Tipi) has asked the National Power Corp. to consider tapping an aging electric power plant in Benguet for additional power.

Tipi has complained about fluctuating electricity from the Luzon grid, arguing that it had cost the firm millions of pesos in delayed shipments, said Rene Rivera, Napocor cluster administrator for the 100-megawatt Binga and 75-MW Ambuklao hydroelectric plants.

Tipi is expanding its Baguio facilities following a fresh $300-million investment committed last year, and was expected to operate at an expanded capacity by 2006, Rivera said.

"Tipi has asked us to test a dormant power line that feeds from Binga," he said.

Ambuklao, the oldest plant, is virtually idle because silt has obstructed its tunnels.

Both plants are due for auction by September as part of Napocor's privatization plans, Rivera said.

Binga is running below capacity, he said, because one of its four hydroelectric units is damaged.

The operations and management of Binga, one of the country's oldest hydroelectric plants, has been contracted to the Itogon Power Generation Corp. (IPGC), which is manned by retrenched Napocor workers. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Farmers claim sugar imports misclassified

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The government could lose up to P1.3 billion in annual revenues if it continues to "misclassify" imported sugar.

Francis Treñas, president of the Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers Inc. (Panayfed), told the INQUIRER that the Tariff Commission should observe the full implementation of Executive Order No. 295 if it wanted to help the government generate the needed revenues.

Under EO 295 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on March 3, 2004, a tariff of 48 percent is imposed on products containing 65 percent sugar.

Treñas, however, lamented that there were certain companies with imports containing over 65 percent sugar, but were classified under a different category and charged only with a 3-percent tariff.

Panayfed has brought the issue before the Tariff Commission, which has yet to take action.

"It is [good] to point out that government is losing millions in unearned revenue from this misclassification," said Treñas.

He pointed out that about 10,000 metric tons of imports were estimated to have been misclassified and were not charged with a 48-percent tariff, resulting in P205 million a year in foregone revenue.

"If the import volume increases to 64,000 metric tons, as what we expect in the coming years, government will lose about P1.3 billion annually," he said.

He warned that the dwindling sugar industry would further decline if the misclassification continued and remained unchecked.

"If EO 295 is not fully implemented, we are afraid many of our industrial customers, beverage manufacturers being the largest, will find it more competitive to import rather than source their sugar locally," said Treñas.

"As sugar is the primary produce in 17 provinces and employs nearly 5 million Filipinos, it is not far-fetched to conclude that the social situation of the country will be affected," he said.

An organization of 14 sugar farmers and planters associations in Panay, Panayfed has 30,000 sugar farmer-members.

Mindanao firms buck BOI move to limit tax holiday

DAVAO CITY—A number of potential investors will likely hesitate to register with the Board of Investments (BOI) after government decided to limit the tax holiday incentive to dollar-earning companies, a ranking official of the BOI in Southern Mindanao said.

BOI regional director Gil Dureza said the Department of Finance (DOF) has proposed to scrap the full incentive scheme, which government has been providing the country's investors in previous years.

Effective this year, only the top 10 dollar-earning companies in each region will be granted full incentives by the government, Dureza said.

The policy was pushed by the DOF to address the fiscal deficit besetting the country, he added.

"Most likely, many investors will not register with BOI because of this new policy, unlike before where many investors availed [themselves] of the full tax holiday system," Dureza said.

In fact, he said, many investors voiced their serious concern over the new policy during the public hearing held to discuss the limiting of full incentives.

"They complained that the scheme is very untimely as businesses are on a downtrend due to the economic slump," Dureza said.

Government, however, stood firm in its decision in a bid to address the fiscal deficit, he added.

Dureza, however, was confident the new tax measure would spare agriculture-related industries.

He said the tax measure was specifically intended for investors who are into exports.

He also expressed optimism that the new tax scheme would only have a slight impact on Southern Mindanao, since it relies primarily on agriculture. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fitch to retain RP ratings outlook

From page B1

ing billion budget deficit.

But opposition allegations that Arroyo cheated in last year's elections and separate allegations that her family members have taken payoffs from illegal gambling have drowned out economic issues in recent weeks.

S&P downgraded the Philippines by one notch in January to BB-minus, three notches below investment grade, with a stable outlook, citing delays in crucial fiscal reforms.

Moody's Investors Service delivered a more severe cut in February, to four notches below investment grade with a stable outlook, saying there were risks from the country's large debt.

Another ratings firm, Standard and Poor's, had said that President Arroyo's apology on public television over an election faux pas had calmed financial markets, but uncertainties remained.

The President's confession that she called an election official during the 2004 polls was "unlikely to have implications that would affect the sovereign ratings of the country," S&P said in statement.

But over the longer term, the possibility of a President weakened by diminished public support and an obstructive legislature could "heighten political instability," said S&P analyst Agost Benard.

"That might impede the administration's efforts to put public finances on an even keel. Such an environment would prolong the Philippines' vulnerability to adverse developments, given its high public and external debt," Benard noted. *Reuters*

Shares close 0.52% lower

From page B1

The political fallout of President Gloria Arroyo's admission that she improperly called an election official during the May 2004 vote, triggering threats of an impeachment complaint against her, and soaring oil prices were foremost on the minds of investors.

"Given the circumstances we are facing it will be hard to see where the market will go," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities. *AFP*

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Provincial Government of Bukidnon

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760-05-002-A
Medical, Lab Supplies & Reagents
PGSO Capitol Compd., Malaybalay City

Standard Form Number SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUKIDNON, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects

NAME OF THE PROJECT	I. Drugs and Medicines II. Medical Laboratory Supplies & Reagents
LOCATION	Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	For six months consumption of seven (7) Provincial Hospitals and Twenty-two (22) Provincial Health Stations.
Approved Budget for the contract	Project I – P6,530,117.61 Project II – P1,018,515.24
DELIVERY PERIOD	15 working days upon receipt of purchase order
PLACE OF DELIVERY	Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Eligible Suppliers need not to submit their eligibility requirements. The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 5-10, 2005
2. Application for Eligibility	July 15, 2005 not later than 9:00 A.M.
3. Pre-bid Conference	July 4, 2005
4. Opening of Bids	July 19, 2005 not later than 9:00 AM
5. Bid Evaluation	July 28, 2005
6. Post-qualification	August 2, 2005
7. Notice of Award	August 9, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00/Project to the Provincial Treasurer

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the BAC office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security equal to 1% for Cash, Certified check, Cashier's check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, 1.5% for Bank guarantee, 2.5% for Surety bond of the Approved Budget for the Contract as advertised. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The Province of Bukidnon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Tel # – 088-221-2537
Fax # – 088-813-2522

Approved by

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Prov'l Admin/BAC Chairman

(PDI–June 30 & July 7, 2005)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as Category B/AAC Medium Sub-Category A General Engineering or General Building Contractor to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL/PIPING WORKS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UPPER MAHIAO STEAM WASHING SYSTEM AND THE CONCRETE SILENCERS AT MAHANAGDONG "A" AND "B" SEPARATOR STATION (LGPF)
(EDC 05-000-1)

The Approved Budget is P 4,941,898.12 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 180 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o N.A. Nicolasora) starting June 30, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00).

Application for Eligibility and Letter of Intent must be submitted to the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group not later than 2:00 P.M. of July 14, 2005.

Bid documents will be available for issuance to eligible bidders starting July 18, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand Five Hundred (P1,500.00).

Site Inspection shall be conducted on July 22, 2005, 10 A.M. at the Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF). For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on July 26, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st Floor Building 5, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 P.M. on August 11, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(PDI--June 30, 2005)

BAC CHAIRMAN

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

REF. No. CL-05-06-0171

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City Government of Zamboanga*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Location / Office	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration / P.R. No.	Delivery Period
1. Motor Vehicles	CMO	Passenger Type, 660 cc, 4WD	P 4,000,000.00	100-05-04-0612	45 w.d.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities		Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 24, 2005 to July 6, 2005
2.	Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at City Budget Office, City Hall, Zamboanga City	June 25, 2005
3.	Opening of Bids	July 7, 2005
4.	Bid Evaluation	July 7, 2005
5.	Post-qualification	July 8, 2005
6.	Notice of Award	July 13, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,200 to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA SAN AGUSTIN GARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 24 & 30, 2005)

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Derrickman / Pumpman – prefer at least 2 years experience as Derrickman or Pumpman with either Jackup, Semi, or Drillship rigs.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby gieven that the estate of the late MELQUIADES C. GUTIERREZ has been extra-judicially settled by the heirs per Doc. No. 256, Page No. 51, Book No. I, Series of 2005, before Atty. Ma. Cecilia P. Subido, Notary Public, Makati City.
(PDI-June 23, 30 & July 7, 2005)

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands (3x). Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer. Thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **July 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila, to all interested rice suppliers for the supply of maximum **185,000 MT**, Long grain white rice, non-iron fortified, 15% and 25% brokens, fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings to be loaded in bulk carrier/s with an appropriated budget from corporate resources of Php3.32 B. Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. A maximum of 50,000 MT each shall be awarded in case of Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. origin.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations for all specifications on CFR FO basis, Documents Against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of ninety (90) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

Arrival Period shall be as follows:

August 31, 2005 -	At least 50%
September 30, 2005 -	Balance

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last two (2) years (2003/2004) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

SUPPLIER	VOLUME (MT)
Government (with good track record)	150,000
Private (with good track record)	50,000
Government/private (without track record)	15,000

However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2003 are considered to have bad track records and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification. Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the highest value of offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to post a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

List of Eligibility Requirements and Instructions to bidders maybe secured starting **July 1, 2005** thru MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Chief III, Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 712-1564; 742-4140; 743-8696; 711-7433; 740-1977; 712-1708; and 712-1572.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will be available from July 1 to July 15, 2005 (8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,500.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **July 8, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Submission of bids will be on **July 21, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILDING FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Opening of bids will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **JESSUP P. NAVARRO**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - June 30 & July 7, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(for PICC Projects)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **Construction Management Consultancy Services** for the proposed PICC Project Package 2a which will cover the Rehabilitation of the Fire and Water Damaged Areas of the Delegation Building of the Philippine International Convention Center. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is **P3.8 Million.**

The scope of Construction Management work includes among others quantity surveying services, preparation of detailed estimates, value engineering, full construction management and supervision for the proposed PICC Project Package 2a as specified in the Terms of Reference.

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) engaging in the lawful practice of the type of consulting services called for in this invitation.

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) Construction Management consultancy services for at least five (5) completed new construction or rehabilitation projects of similar or greater nature/magnitude/complexity as the proposed BSP project and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance from the client for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.

3.0 The Principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect or Engineer with at least fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work and construction management.

4.0 The Project Manager for the projects must be a registered Architect or Civil Engineer with minimum fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work five (5) years of which is in construction management.

5.0 The Construction Management Senior Staff should at least be Registered Architects/ Engineers with a minimum ten (10) years combined design/construction management and construction experience where the Construction Management experience should at least be five (5) years. The minimum number required for the Senior Staff should at least be three (3) excluding the principal and project manager.

6.0 The firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by a Filipino citizen.

7.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered construction management consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

8.0 For those firms with previous or current Construction Management Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on 01 to 08 July 2005 for a non-refundable fee of P200.00; Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 4:30 p.m. on 15 July 2005.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - June 30 & July 7, 2005)

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the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

The Board of Directors, the President,
Executives and Employees
of **BJ Marthel International, Inc.**
condole with the family of

HENRY P. PAJARILLO

who joined his Creator on June 28, 2005 at the age of 62.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel,
Sucat Avenue, Parañaque City.
Interment will be on Saturday, July 2, 2005.

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We, the family of the late

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wish to convey our deepest appreciation to all of you, our relatives and friends, especially the following:

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who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, gave donations, or in some other way expressed your love, concern and support in celebrating *Les'* coming home to his Creator.

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
(2 Timothy 4)

CLASSIFIEDS

Rice supply assured for the lean months

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is adopting effective rice distribution strategies to ensure it can stabilize the supply and price of rice during the lean months and continue the agency's food security programs. NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said in the first half of the year, the agency has steadily laid the ground work to assure it will have sufficient stock of rice when the harvest of palay in the country drops during the lean period of July to September. To sustain the stability in the price and supply of rice when palay production is low, the NFA will be adopting a more rational and judicious allocation of NFA rice to make sure that the consumers will benefit from the quality yet affordable rice of the agency. Tan noted that the presence of NFA rice in the market and the agency's capability to inject rice in areas where there is short supply of the basic staple serve to dampen any unnecessary increase in the commodity's price.

For more information on NFA programs and operations please send inquiries via text NFA through mobile number 0917-6210927. For more information on programs of the Department of Agriculture, please visit the DA's official website at www.da.gov.ph.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

ITS No.	Item/Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-184	2,915 bxs. Continuous Form 11" x 14 7/8, 1 ply	P 2,324,712.50	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **July 27, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **July 14, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI – June 30 & July 7, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

EAST-TECH PRODUCTS, INC. has transferred its business operation from
Toucan Compound, M.L. Quezon St., Cabancalan, Mandaue City
to its new location at
H. Abellana St., Pagsabungan, Mandaue City
starting on **February 1, 2005.**

(PDI–June 30, 2005)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that at a Special Meeting held on April 30, 2005 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the Board of Directors of **CHUSIK HOESA NATURALIFE (NATURALIFE CO., LTD. in English)** has unanimously approved the withdrawal of its license and the dissolution/closure of its Representative Office in the Philippines effective as of **May 30, 2005.**

All persons having claims against the said Philippine Representative Office are requested to present the same at the Office of its authorized representative agent, **Atty. Antonino P. San Juan, Jr.**, with office address at 3/F Saville Building, 8728 Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Jupiter Street, Makati City.

This announcement shall serve as notice of the withdrawal/dissolution of the aforesaid representative office.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANTONINO P. SAN JUAN, JR.**
Representative Agent

(PDI – June 23, 30 & July 7, 2005)

SLTCFI, ANELC AND TESDA LAUNCH DUALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

The MOA signing for the adoption of the dualized training program for Information and Communications Technology held on June 20, at TESDA Albay Provincial Office. Shown from left is Rosemarie Q. Rey, president of SLTCFI, Engr. Gerson S. Escaro, president of ANELC Inc and acting regional director Fortunato M. Bosangit of TESDA V.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines) through the General Appropriations Act and AFP Modernization Program Act Trust Fund, intends to apply the sum of *FOUR HUNDRED ELEVEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND AND FOUR HUNDRED PESOS* (PHP411,302,400.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of the Night Fighting System for the Philippine Army. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DND/AFP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the NIGHT FIGHTING SYSTEM consisting of:

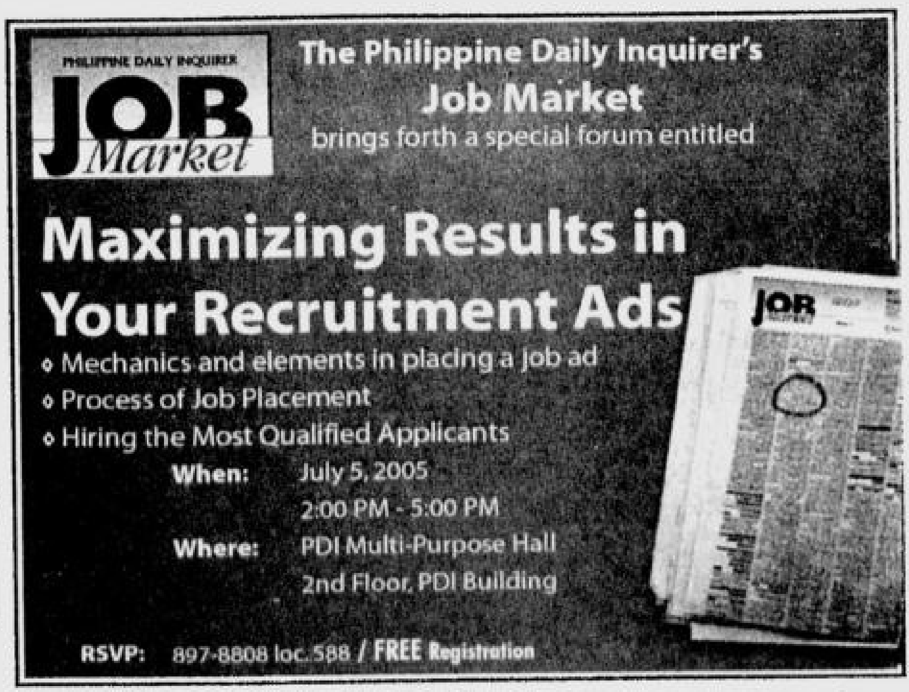
LOT	PARTICULARS	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	ABC
1	Night Vision Monocular	1,440	Php 350,665,460.00
2	Infrared Aiming Device	1,440	55,036,800.00
	Laser Zeroing Device	181	5,600,140.00
		TOTAL	Php 411,302,400.00

3. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is 180 CALENDAR DAYS as per Bidding Documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Bidding Documents. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address specified below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS* (Php 30,000.00) for LOT 1 and *TEN THOUSAND PESOS* (Php 10,000.00) for LOT 2. The method of payment will be in cash or thru cashier's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The DND-AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 14, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., August 11, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the forms and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at 10:00 a.m. on August 11, 2005. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at *Silid Panday Pira, 1st Flr, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*
9. Only bids from manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors of the aforementioned system/equipment will be entertained.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding are required to apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement of the projects they wish to participate in, pursuant to DND BAC Cir 01-2005 dtd 12 May 2005.
11. The DND / AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process, and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DND BAC Secretariat
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Modernization Program Management Office
3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City Philippines 1110
Tel No: (632) 911-6001 local 6481
Telefax No: (632) 912-9541 / 421-2327
E-mail: pid@info.com.ph
Website: www.info.com.ph/-afpmod

(Sgd.) **UNDERSECRETARY JOSE F SANTOS**
Chairman, DND BAC

(PDI - June 30 & July 7, 2005)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BUSINESS

Bayantel still keen on mobile phone business

By Clarissa S. Batino

LOPEZ-OWNED Bayan Telecommunications Inc. yesterday said it still plans to go into the mobile phone business.

"Bayantel's overall strategy includes full utilization of its existing assets and resources, including its existing provisional authority from the NTC to operate a cellular mobile telephone system," said Tunde Fafunwa, the company's chief consultant.

The National Telecommunications Commission had threatened to recall the mobile frequencies it had granted to the eight-year-old company.

Still deep in debt, Bayantel has yet to turn in some profit. Its parent firm, Benpres Holdings Corp., had been looking for a buyer for Bayantel.

Bayantel's best bet, according to sources, would be to find a new investor that would put in money so the company could go into the third-generation wireless operations.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis said last week the commission might recall unused frequencies once active cellular players would require additional space for their expansion. So far, only Bayantel and its subsidiary Express Telecom Inc. have not been using their wireless frequencies.

"Our serious intent to pursue such (mobile phone) plans is borne by the fact that we have complied with all regulations and fees required to maintain our 'right' to operate and deliver said service," Fafunwa added.

Bayantel said it has yet to receive word from the NTC regarding its use of the frequency. "Bayantel will continue to comply with all requirements needed to maintain our provisional authority," the consultant said.

The Benpres unit said it was "committed to deliver the next generation of services" to meet the demands of its subscribers.

The company had recently upgraded its high-speed Internet capability. New services, Fafunwa said, were being worked out.

Sources said Bayantel declined to let go of its wireless permit in the hope that a strategic partner would come in, infuse equity and invest huge amounts to launch the mobile phone operations.

Wireless leaders Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. spend about P15 billion a year to constantly improve their networks.

Bayantel's "strong data business" is making it attractive to other telcos like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and even Globe.

Globe yesterday said that while its discussions for the acquisition of Bayantel bogged down seven years ago, "the company may consider investment alternatives and fully optimize opportunities presented."

Extelcom has 20 megahertz under the 800 band while Bayantel has 10 megahertz each on the 1700 and 1800 bands.

Solis said the provisional authority issued to telcos provide a timetable under which they should complete their network rollout. Failure to do so gives the government the right to recall the assigned frequencies.

In the case of 3G, the NTC said frequency bands issued to Extelcom and Pilipino Telephone Corp. could be recalled if they are not qualified to go into 3G.

Piltel head of legal Rogelio Quevedo said that all mobile phone frequencies it had secured from the NTC have been fully used. Thus, the NTC cannot recall them, he said.

GM remains bullish on RP

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE challenged by changing government regulations, General Motors Automobiles Philippines (GM) still sees growth coming from the local market, with the Philippines remaining among its top five markets in the Southeast Asian region.

GM executive director for Asean operations William Botwick said that while the company had been able to meet its financial targets in the country over the past three years, there was still room for growth here.

"We're expecting slight growth as the Philippines is the one market that hasn't bounced back after the (financial) crisis. It's not just the auto industry. The economy here is just not as strong as other markets," he said in an interview after the company's appointment of a new president and general manager for GM Philippines.

But he said the company would not be rushing to capitalize on that growth potential, choosing instead to "grow a bit more each year."

The company last year sold about 3,000 units of vehicles in the country, resulting in a 3.2-percent share of the local market.

GM's Optra was last year's best-seller, accounting for roughly 70 percent of total sales. Big sports utility vehicles (SUVs) had a 20-percent share of overall sales.

In the Asean region, the Philippines is behind Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia in terms of sales volume. It is roughly the same size as the Singapore market, and bigger than Vietnam's.

Botwick said GM had its second highest market share in the Philippines, after Thailand where the company had a production plant.

This despite the challenges posed by changing regulations, particularly those involving duties, outgoing GM Philippines president and general manager James Lim said.

"Every time the government changes regulations, it affects our business a lot. When the tax structure changes, even our customers are affected," he said.

Philrealty eyes Fort Boni joint venture

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONDOMINIUM developer and investment firm Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. (PhilRealty) is looking at a possible joint venture for its 1,600-square-meter property at the bustling Fort Bonifacio Global City, company president Amador Bacani said Tuesday night.

The property sits beside Dencio's bar and grill restaurant and was acquired by Philrealty between 1996 and 1997 for P200 million.

Bacani said Philrealty was in "very exploratory" talks with some foreign firms. He declined to reveal the potential investors.

Philrealty is also mulling over a joint-venture project for its four-hectare property in Tagaytay, which it wants to develop into a vacation home.

Bacani also said Philrealty was initially considering an office development in its Fort Bonifacio property but has not ruled out a residential project.

If this pushes through, this will be the second joint-venture project Philrealty will undertake in Fort Bonifacio.

Philrealty earlier signed a joint-venture agreement with new property player Xcell Property Ventures.

Dubbed "The Icon", the project will consist of two 34-storey towers on Philrealty's 4,300-square-meter property. Xcell president Rally Martinez had said the project cost for land and building had reached P1.3 billion.

The property is also the remaining undeveloped parcel of land facing the Manila Golf Club at the Bonifacio Global City.

Xcell is backed up by corporate bigwigs—Enrique Razon of port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc., Ramon Sy of International Exchange Bank, Landco Pacific president Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Gerardo Lanuza Jr. of Philrealty and veteran stockbroker Wilson Sy.

With construction starting late this year, The Icon is expected to be completed by 2008.

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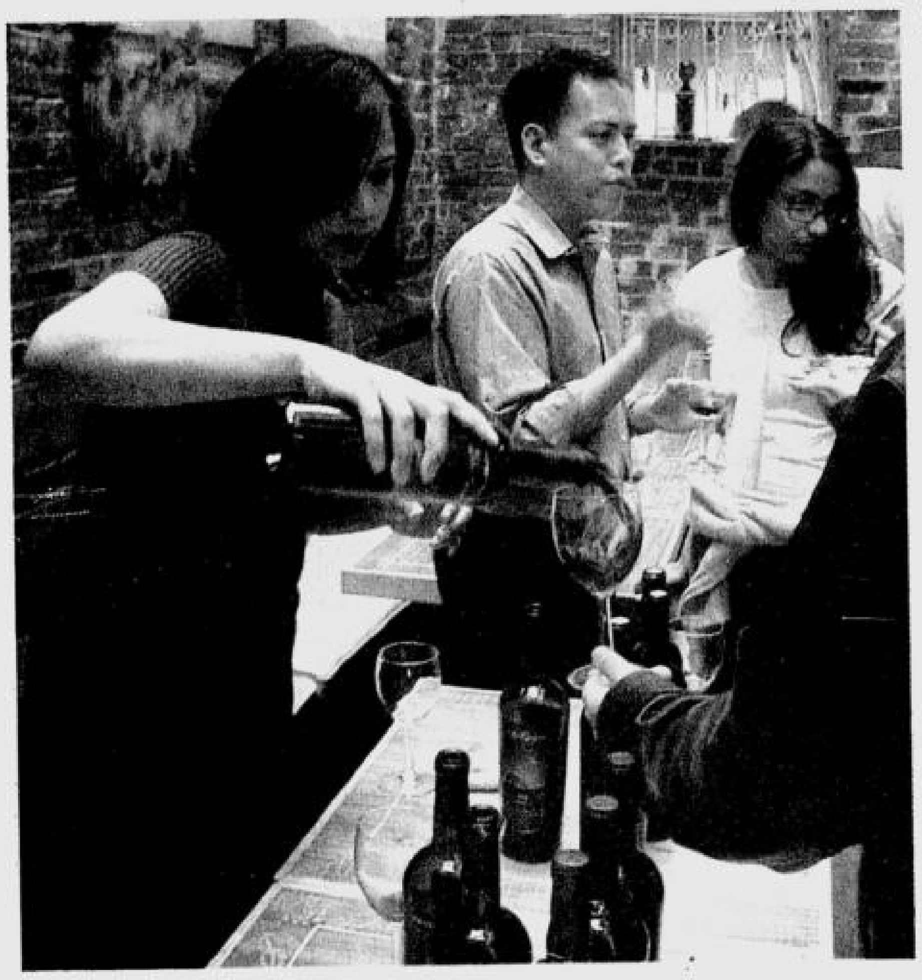

Hearty chunks of Lechon Kawali, and Oxtail Kare-Kare are served with Pinoy-made red wine in Pinoy-owned Cendrillon in Soho

ELAINE Villamin pouring her family's Eden Canyon wine at Cendrillon

Cabernet Sauvignon and 'sinigang'?

By Yvette Fernandez Ferreol
Contributor

IT'S wonderful!" insisted Elaine Villamin as she poured me a glass of her family vineyard's 2002 labor of love. "Filipino food is amazing when paired with wine."

Amy Besa, the hostess of the night's wine tasting, couldn't agree with her more.

And so instead of serving the traditional platters of cheese and fruit, Amy's chef husband, Romy Dorotan, prepared *platitos* laden with hearty chunks of Lechon Kawali, *empanaditas*, and steamed mini *bibingkas*, at their high-ceilinged, exposed brick walled Cendrillon restaurant in Soho.

The event was a wine tasting for Eden Canyon Vineyard's first two releases: its 2003 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon, made from grapes grown at their actual vineyard, and its 2002 Paso Robles Cabernet Sauvignon, a blend of grapes raised at Eden Canyon, and others from neighboring vineyards. The 2003 won a silver medal, and the 2002 won a bronze medal at this year's San Francisco Chronicle Wine competition.

Wine tastings in New York are not uncommon. Walk into any wine store on any given day, and you can taste a whole flight of various wines. What intrigued me about the Cendrillon tasting, however, was the story behind Eden Canyon Vineyards. It's the story of a Filipino who left the Philippines after Martial Law was declared in 1972.

Now I'm the first to admit that I'm no wine expert. I have a glass of wine at most with dinner, since anything more than that makes me tipsy. I can probably tell a good wine from a bad one, but that's about it.

Unusual pairings

Still, the idea of pairing wine with Filipino food was intriguing. So when the event was over, I called my husband Marc to join me, and we stayed for dinner.

For appetizers we ordered Bacalao on a bed of *laing*, and dainty quail eggs with chicken *adobo* flakes. Romy sent out a dish of braised Oxtail Kare-Kare as well.

So what do you suggest we eat with what? we asked Elaine.

I'm no wine snob, she answered. There's no right or wrong. Whatever tastes best, whatever you like is right for you. It's a personal

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P2,500 - JULY 19 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,750 - JULY 20 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread.
P2,500 - JULY 21 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,750 - JULY 22 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons. NEXT SCHED: AUG. 15 - 19
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COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS for appointment NEXT SCHED: AUG. 15 - 19
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Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies, Baking for Diabetics. NEXT SCHED: AUG. 20
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For whole courses or Learn to make 30 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration. NEXT SCHED: AUG. 22 - 26
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Spanish Omelette, Fish Pastries, Potato & Ham Croquettes, Pescado frito, Albondigas, Ensalada de Pollo & Mallocan Pizza NEXT SCHED: AUG. 27
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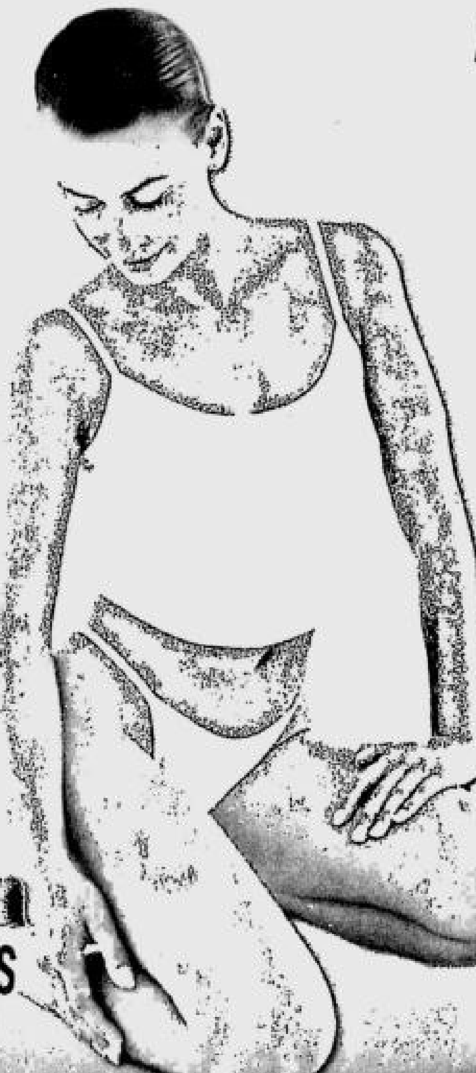

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Cabernet Sauvignon and 'sinigang'?

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From page C1

choice.

As it happened, we liked them both.

The lighter, brighter 2002 went well with the salty Bacalao and the vinegary Chicken Adobo. And the fuller, richer 2003 estate complemented the Kare-Kare.

Our entrees: Romy's smoked spareribs marinated in soy sauce, lime, honey and rice wine that the New York Times recently noted as some of the best in town. And Visayan Chicken Inasal hot off the grill infused with garlic and *calamansi*.

Now those went well with the 2003 estate.

The food kept coming and Elaine kept pouring. I was hot and flushed from the inordinate amount of wine, but how could one stop eating?

Romy brought out one of his weekly specials, Bistek Tagalog, bursting with flavor and much more tender than the kobe beef we had at a Japanese restaurant the weekend before. Amy brought out another plateful of crispy *adobo* flakes and *kangkong*.

Elaine opened another bottle of the 2003 estate.

Our appetites satiated, our minds inebriated, our inhibitions gone, we shared our stories. Elaine, aka, Wine Gypsy, which is the title she's given herself, is proud, so proud of her dad.

Danny Villamin had less than $100 to his name when he landed in California to start a new life with his wife, Nieves, their little daughter Edna, and the soon-to-be born Elaine still in her mother's womb.

VILLAMIN, also known as Wine Gypsy

CHEF Romy Dorotan and hostess-wife Amy Besa

Over three decades later, Elaine was pouring me a glass of wine from the first Filipino-American estate winery in the United States.

Fifteen years ago when Villamin bought a 60-acre ranch in Creston, San Luis Obispo County, wine experts told him the land wasn't good for grapes. But he didn't listen to them.

For close to a hundred years, Filipinos were seasonal migrant laborers for big landowners. They toiled away on land that wasn't their own, planted crops they never harvested. Villamin wanted to change all that. He was a Filipino migrant who was a landowner, and he was going to grow his own vineyard. It was his version of the American dream.

He and Elaine took winemaking classes and, six years later, planted their first fruit.

Not too long afterward, tragedy struck. A fire hit thousands of acres of land in the area, and burned for weeks. Community farmers and firefighters worked side by side to put it out. The Villamins' plantation was destroyed.

Villamin was heartbroken, but not bowed. Against pleas from his family, he took the insurance money and planted more grapevines.

And wonder of wonders, he discovered that the embers from the fire had enriched the land, and the vines grew better than before.

Elaine poetically describes the family vineyards… "at night, the grapes ripen under a lake of stars while the moon reflects its silver in the oak trees' leaves. The only traffic you hear is the crickets' horns and the slight rustle of the trees. It's the soul of the earth that inspires the vineyard and its caretakers to grow."

Exuberant welcome

Years later, the fruits of the Villamins' labor have been welcomed exuberantly by the public. Eden Canyon Cabernet Sauvignons were poured at the opening night gala of the San Francisco International Asian American film festival. Bottles of the 2002 were included in this year's Grammy Awards gift baskets. Elaine has poured at UC Berkeley, various wine bars in San Francisco, restaurants Va de Vi in Walnut Creek and Lavanda in Palo Alto, both in California.

The family hopes to one day soon find a distributor in the Philippines so they can share their labor of love with the people from the land of their birth (Elaine, who was born in the US, reminds us she, too, is "Made in the Philippines.").

Cabernet Sauvignon and *sinigang*? Why not?

E-mail the author at yfernandez@aol.com

Preserving Filipino breakfast tradition

BREAKFAST in the Philippines still means, for many people, a cup of coffee and the classic *pan de sal*.

Pan de sal—Spanish for "bread of salt" and believed to be of Spanish origin—was traditionally baked in a home *pugon*. Later it would be baked in *panaderias*, and sold by bicycle-riding bread peddlers.

Pan de Manila (PDM), the bakery that has been producing the Filipino's favorite bread since 1999, carries on with the tradition by baking *pan de sal* in old-style brick ovens.

Baked fresh throughout the day, PDM's *pugon pan de sal* has a distinct smoked flavor. It has light-brown crust and is soft inside. The bread is packaged in brown food-grade paper bags. It contains no preservatives or artificial color or flavors. Only quality ingredients, including bromate-free flour, are used.

Pan de Manila has also introduced a wide array of breads, such as wheat *pan de sal*, *ensaymada* (classic, *monggo* and cheese), *pan de coco*, cheese sticks and many more. To complement its breads, PDM also has spreads like garlic butter, herb cream cheese, all-natural peanut butter and coco jam, fruit jams and marmalades, and Spanish sardines.

Pan de Manila is open 24 hours a day.

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Experience the marvelous mango mania that these perfect summer chillers unleash: Try the Paradise Mango Coffee Romance for an after-dinner tete a tete; the Paradise Mango Frappe may be served 24/7 for anyone who wants a cool drink on the go; and the Paradise Mangotini for a relaxing day on the beach. You can also enjoy Paradise Mango Rum straight up, on the rocks or with sodas, tonic water or other virgin spirits.

Paradise Mango Rum Liqueur is created by the country's oldest distillery, Destileria Limtuaco and Co. Inc., which is well-known throughout the country for its high-quality products. Paradise is available at all leading wines and spirits stores, supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Paradise Mango Coffee Romance

1 part Paradise Mango Rum Liqueur
½ tbsp instant coffee
½ c crushed ice
4 parts milk
2 tbsp sugar

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Blend until smooth. Serves one.

Paradise Mango Frappe

1 pc ripe mango
4 tbsp Paradise Mango Rum Liqueur
4 tbsp cream
1 tbsp syrup
1 tbsp coconut cream
½ c crushed ice

Blend all ingredients in a blender. Pour into a tall glass.

MANGO Coffee Romance

Paradise Mangotini

1 part Paradise Mango Rum Liqueur
1 part Britannia Gin
1 dash Dry Vermouth
1 piece cherry (for garnish)
1 c ice

In a glass with ice pour all ingredients. Stir till blended. Strain mixture into a martini glass. Garnish with cherry.

MANGO Frappe

Authentic fish and chips here soon

THE SINGAPORE-BASED Fish & Co. has officially joined the Bistro Group of Restaurants, the company that operates Outback, T.G.I.Friday's and Italianni's.

Fish & Co., which now has nine Singapore branches, will open at Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Greenbelt 3 in August this year. It will provide Filipinos a unique dining experience—food will be served in a pan.

The practice is inspired by Mediterranean fishermen who pan cook fresh-from-the-sea food to ensure freshness. At Fish & Co. all seafood dishes are prepared in a simple and straightforward manner. Using only the freshest catch, every dish is enhanced with all-natural ingredients such as olive oil, herbs and various spices.

Promising to serve "the best Fish & Chips in town," Fish & Co. will also introduce its other popular items—Prawn Delight, Baked Salmon, Grilled or Cajun Salmon and Mussels in Garlic and Lemon Butter.

Pasta dishes include Mussel Penne with Garlic and Lemon Cream, Prawns Vermicelli and Coriander Spaghetti, among others.

Fish & Co. is designed to give customers a simple, colorful and fresh feel with its vivid tones of orange, yellow and blue. Founder Ricky Chew said the name was chosen because 70 percent of the establishment's menu consisted of fish dishes. Fish & Co. stood for prawns, squid, oyster and other dishes available, although now it only meant the company's growing family of employees and customers, Chew said.

FISH and Chips from Fish & Co.

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Grocery discount for elderly now available

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

IN LAST week's column, we tackled the new Expanded Senior Citizens Act (Republic Act No. 9257) requiring supermarkets to give elderly shoppers a five-percent discount on nine basic commodities.

Senior citizens are entitled to the discount for purchases not exceeding P650 a week. If they do not reach the purchase limit, they cannot use the balance to increase their purchase limit the following week.

The exact provision is: "Section 3. Discount. Every senior citizen shall enjoy a special discount of five percent of the regular retail price of basic necessities and prime commodities listed under Section 2(a) of this Order. The total amount of said purchase shall not exceed the amount of P650 per calendar week without carry over of the unused amount."

Among the first to comply with the provision is the Shopwise chain. At its Makati branch (corner Pablo Ocampo and Chino Roces Ave.), signs have been posted at checkout counters informing senior citizens of the discount and how they can avail of it.

Most readers want to know where to get the purchase booklet they need to avail of the discount and a copy of RA 9257. It is evident that, as writer Eufemia Estrada has noted, very few people know about the grocery discount for the elderly.

No rice

One of our friends commented that the expanded act "left much to be desired." We quite agree. For one thing, the privilege discount should not be limited to only nine basic necessities and prime commodities (for the complete list, see my column last week).

What our friend could not understand also was why rice, a very basic necessity, was excluded from the list. If instant noodles were classified as basic necessity, why not rice and, for that matter, fresh milk or eggs?

Come to think of it, some items in the list are hardly healthful for senior citizens, for example, coffee and canned or preserved meat products.

By the way, the purchase booklet is supposed to be issued by the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs, or Osca, of local governments. As for RA 9257, our copy was faxed to us by Tina Lubrio of the consumer welfare desk of the Department of Trade and Industry (tel. 8977384).

Feeding the elderly

A nutritionist specializing in diet for the elderly has this advice to caregivers of senior citizens: "It is important to take into consideration their (the elderly's) taste preferences and eating ability."

Anna Jacob of Food and Nutrition Specialists in Singapore explained, "As aging progresses, many elderly people find that their taste buds are not as sensitive, and both chewing and swallowing can become more difficult."

Jacob recommended the use of herbs, spices, flavor enhancer, supplements and a variety of food textures. She said having fluid with meals could help those who find swallowing difficult.

Incidentally, Food Facts Asia, a publication of the Asian Food Information Center, reported that, in Asia, the number of senior citizens (60 years old and above) would increase by 314 percent, from 207 million in year 2000 to 857 million by 2050.

No fare discount

Claire Diaz, an angry parent, complained: "Unfortunately for us residents of Parañaque and surrounding villages, the jeepney drivers do not give the due 20-percent discount to students and senior citizens. Specifically, these are Pasay-bound jeepneys from terminals [near the] Caltex station, Doña Soledad Street, Better Living Subdivision.

"The drivers [say] they cannot give the discount because they [use] the Skyway, which means that they pay [higher] toll fees."

E-mail the author at mvgiron07 @yahoo.com

Senior citizens have to get a purchase booklet from Osca

YUMMY Gyoza

CRISPY Hito Salad

Cooking for two

SAFI Heinz UFC and culinary mentor Vicky Veloso-Barrera offer some easy recipes for newlyweds.

Cooking for two is made easy with Kusinabilidad, a recipe service provider, using Heinz, UFC, Datu Puti, Mang Tomas, Papa, Mafran, Jufran and Golden Fiesta products.

Yummy Gyoza

2 c flour
2/3-1 c hot water
¼ k ground pork
1 tbsp chopped green onion
½ c finely chopped cabbage
1 tbsp Datu Puti Soy Sauce
1 tbsp cornstarch
1 tsp sugar
2 tbsps Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil
2 tbsps water
Datu Puti Soy Sauce and Jufran Sweet Chili Sauce for serving

Put the flour in a bowl and make a well in the center.

Add the hot water and stir until combined.

Let cool slightly then knead until soft for about 10 minutes. The longer the dough is kneaded the thinner it can be rolled out. Cover with a damp cloth and set aside for 10 minutes.

Make the filling by combining ground pork, green onion, cabbage, soy sauce, cornstarch and sugar.

Form the dough into a log 1½-inches thick. Cut into ¼-inch thick slices and roll each into a thin circle.

Place a spoon of filling on one side, then fold the other side over and press the edges well, pinching them to seal.

Set aside enough to serve two then freeze the rest for future use.

Fry the *gyoza* in cooking oil just till it browns on one side. Add the water then cover the pan and let steam for a few minutes.

Skill booster tip: Folding and pinching ensure the filling will not spill out.

Crispy Hito Salad

1 *hito*
Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil for frying
1 c finely shredded cabbage
½ c thin strips of carrot
½ small red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
1 tsp chopped green onion
1 tbsp *wansuy* (coriander) leaves
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tbsps Datu Puti Vinegar
1 tbsp sugar
1 tbsp Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil
Pinch of black pepper
1 yellow-green mango (green to half-ripe), peeled and cut into thin strips
Chopped red chili for garnish (optional)

Fry the *hito* until crisp, let cool. Flake the fish and set aside.

Put in a bowl the cabbage, carrot, green onion, bell pepper and *wansuy*.

Combine the garlic, Datu Puti Vinegar, sugar, Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil and black pepper in a small bowl to make the dressing, then add to the vegetables and toss to combine well.

To assemble the dish, place dressed salad in a serving bowl and top with the green mango and flaked *hito*.

Garnish with chopped red chili.

Idea maker: This take on the Thai crispy *hito* salad combines the flaked fish with green mangoes and other veggies.

Mango Cake

1 ripe mango
½ c butter
1 c sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 2/3 c flour
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
½ c milk mixed with 1 tsp Datu Puti Vinegar
Powdered sugar

Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Then add eggs and vanilla. Mix well.

Combine the flour, baking powder and salt in the measuring cup; add alternately to the batter with the milk mixed with Datu Puti Vinegar.

Add one ripe mango, peeled and mashed, to the batter.

Bake in a greased and floured eight-inch cake pan or in muffin pans lined with paper linens at 350° F.

A cake will take about 35 minutes to cook, while cupcakes will cook in 20 minutes.

Makes one eight-inch cake or 12 cupcakes. Cake is done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Skill booster: The secret of a tender cake is the vinegar added to make sour milk.

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JULY-AUGUST SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

July 01, Friday THE SPOON DESSERTS. Chef Junjun will make his popular easy to do desserts served and eaten with a spoon. Great for instant parties and big catering jobs. His line-up are the following: Strawberry Cream Magic, Raspberry and Mandarin Gelatine, Tiramisu, Apple Bake with Cinnamon Sauce, Cappuccino Pannacotta, Bread and Butter Pudding and Chocolate Budin. P1,200.00 from 10:00-3:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

July 13 & 14, Wednesday & Thursday THE PERFECT SOUFFLE: A WORKSHOP. Learn one of the most elegant dishes in French Cuisine with Chef Jun Jun. You will be making Cheese Souffle, Smoked Salmon Souffle, Vegetable Souffle for starters. For the sweet and luscious souffles: Chocolate Souffle, Orange Souffle, Banana Souffle, All Season Strawberry Souffle. Cold or chilled souffle will also be done. P 2,500.00, 1 - 4 pm for the first day and 10 - 3 pm for the 2nd and last day. NEW CLASS.

July 18-21, Monday - Thursday CAKE DECORATING SKILLS! A 4-days hands-on basic cake decorating skills under Wedding Cake Designer Ana Baluyut which includes Basic Tool Kit, Apron and Everyday Lunch - for P10,000.00 from 10:00-4:00 p.m. Module covers 3 Kinds of Icing Design Making such as Borders, Ribbon and Letters. Students will decorate their occasion cake and simple pastry shop cake.

July 22, Friday LOW AND SUGAR-FREE DESSERTS. New sugar-free and low-sugar dessert recipes from Chef Junjun will be demonstrated in this class. The recipes are Cinnamon Streusel Coffeecake, Carrot Cheesecake, Mango Custard Pie, Strawberry Cheesecake, Sugar-Free Apple Bake and No Bake Lemon Pie from 10:00-4:00 p.m. including all ingredients for P1,200.00.

July 26, Tuesday SPECIAL BARS. Learn a new set of delectable bar recipes from Chef Adoree Chong-Uy which are perfect for a home-based business. Recipes include Chocolate Raspberry bars, Date and Apple Squares, Sour Cream Streusel Bars, Sesame Squares, Almond Bars and Lemon Squares for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

July 27, Wednesday A CLASS FULL OF BROWNIES. Let's get ready for Christmas! For the novice baker, dessert lover and café owners, here is the class for you. Chef Junjun will show and teach you a variety of brownies namely: Traditional, Coffee Blond, Marble, White Chocolate, Chocochip Blondes and Strawberry Blondes. All ingredients are included for P1,000.00 from 1:00-4:00 pm.

COOKING CLASSES

July 02, Saturday THE SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 1. Recipes from Chef David for you to learn that can be use in business or as gifts. The recipes are Italian Sausage, Morcillas or Blood Sausage, Longganisang Calumpit, Breakfast Pork Sausage, Seafood Sausage, Sulpan Sausage and Chorizo de Jabalí. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

July 03, Sunday SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 2. Chef David teaches his favorite exotic sausages like Fresh Pork Sausage with Apple and Dried Onion, Italian Sausage with 3 Cheeses and Red Wine, Duck Sausage with Fresh Sage and Roasting Garlic, Greek Sausage Loukanika, Tuscan Sausage, Nurnberg Sausage and Sweet Italian Sausage. The workshop includes recipes plus ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

July 04, Monday BASIC SUSHI AND SASHIMI WORKSHOP 1. Chef Gene will teach us the basic of sushi and sashimi making in this workshop. He will demonstrate How to Trim Tuna, How to make Sushi Rice, Tekka Don, California Rolls, Lapu-lapu Uzusukuri, Ponzu Sauce, Tekka Temaki and Kani Sarada Temaki. The recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

July 06, Wednesday CHINESE DIMSUMS. Our Chinese Pastry and Cake-Decorator Chef, Ana Baluyut will share with us her family-own recipes of assorted dumplings like Siomai and other famous Chinese dimsums. The recipes are Eight Treasure Spring Rolls, Sweet Peanut Soup, Sesame Chicken Roll-ups, Pork Siomai, Shrimp Dumpling, Quail Eggs Siomai and Beef Siomai include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00-4:00 p.m.

July 07, Thursday LASAP: TEMPTING FAVORITES 2. Ensaladang Kasag, Sisig, Sizzling Bulut, Seafood Kare-kare, Kangkong sa Lechon, Crispy Tadyang ng Baka, Sinampalukang Lechon Manok and Bamboo Rice are the recipes that Chef Gene Gonzalez will be teaching us for P1,000.00 from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

July 08, Friday THAI FAVORITES 2. The recipes from Thai Chef Chanya Thaikupt. Tom Kha Talay, Bagoong Rice, Roasted Duck Curry, Crispy Catfish with Green Mango Salad, Thai Halo-halo at P1,200.00 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

July 09, Saturday THAI BARBECUE 1. Different kinds of genuine Thai Barbecue with sauces and side dish from Chef Chanya like Chicken Barbecue, Grilled Catfish, Grilled Pork Belly, Grilled Pork Spareribs with Different Kinds of Sauces and Papaya Salad for P1,200.00 including all the ingredients from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

July 10, Sunday SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 3. New sets of sausages from Chef David like Asturian Chorizo, Chinese White Sausage, Fresh Cheese Sausage (Kraner type), Longganisang Vigan, Lemon Chicken Sausage, Fresh Sulzwurst, Adobo Sausage and English Bangers. The workshop includes all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

July 11, Monday - PASTA IN A FLASH. Let Chef Gino teach you 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Pasta Fritata, Linguine in Vongole Sauce, Chorizo, Mushroom and Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce, Chicken and Shrimp Lemon Crème Sauce, Pasta Bianca alla Carbonara, Pasta Salad with Honey Dill Dressing and Gino's Puttanesca for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

July 12, Tuesday BASIC SUSHI AND SASHIMI WS 2. For the 2nd part of the Sushi and Sashimi Class, Chef Gene will demonstrate How to Fillet a Flat Fish and will teach us how to make Rainbow Roll, Sushi Rice, Futo Maki Roll, Gari, Aji, Uzuzukuri Sauce and Tamago. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00-3:00 p.m. for P1,000.00

July 15, Friday SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 4. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Recipes include Cream of Spinach Soup, Corn, Asparagus and Green Salad, Fish fillet al Caparas, Meatloaf with Pan Gravy and Pannacotta with Honey for P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

July 16, Saturday DAVE'S PARTY SPECIALS. Let Chef David teach us his favorite party specials such as Lasagna with Tomato and Meat Sauce, Lasagna with White Sauce and Chicken, Shepherd's Pie, Pandesal with Basil and many more recipes that you will surely enjoy. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00-2:00 p.m.

July 23, Saturday FLAVORS OF WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN. Come share in the excitement with our Guest Chef, Chef Edgar Grajo from the Culinary Institute of America. He will teach us to the new trends, ideas and flavors of the world. Students will be able to learn the trends in the Western Mediterranean Menu by creating new ideas and flavors of the world. Students will also learn new techniques to intense new flavors from your ingredients and taste some of the exciting dishes that are making its way into mainstream in the Western Mediterranean table. The recipes are: Grilled Seabass with Charmoula Vinaigrette, Couscous, Roast Vegetable Ragout, Moroccan Lamb Tangine with Preserved Lemon and Olives, Saffron Steamed Basmati Rice, Pepper Eggplant Salad, Halibut Fillet in a Serrano Ham Sauce, Potato Gruyere Gratin, Saute Asparagus with Red and Yellow Roasted Pepper, Roasted Duck in a Dried Fruit Sauce, Lentils and Rice Medley and Haricot Vert, Carrots, Cipollini Onions for P2,000.00 including ingredients and apron.

July 25, Monday MODERN AND EASY PASTA SAUCES. In this class, Chef Jun-jun will demonstrate a new set of tasty pasta sauces with familiar ingredients to tickle your palate: Clam & Anchovy in Olive oil, Armida's Delight, Gorgonzola and Red Bell Pepper Sauce, Tuna and Sun-dried Tomatoes, Lemon Butter Sauce and Three Mushroom Cream with White Truffle Oil. Recipes include all ingredients from 1:00-4:00 p.m. for P1,000.00.

July 28, Thursday SPANISH TAPAS FOR THE HOME. Simple and easy to do Spanish Tapas for our dining table will be demonstrated by Betina Legarda of Gourmet's Palate for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00-3:00 p.m. The recipes are: Delicious Antipasto of Mixed Peppers, Aubergines with Nuts and Terrine of Roasted Vegetables, Cold Avocado, Orange and Nut Salad, Mediterranean Mussels with Herbs, Marinated Cheeses and Olives and Betina's Chorizo in Olive Oil. NEW CLASS.

August 03, Wednesday CLASSIC PASTA SAUCES. Aglio E Olio (Garlic and Olive Oil), Pasta Alla Genovese, Pomodoro e Basilico (Tomato and Basil), Puttanesca, Primavera (Vegetables and Cream), All Alfredo and Carbonara are distinct Italian pasta sauces Chef Junjun will be demonstrating. For P1,000.00 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. including all ingredients.

BUSINESS CLASSES

July 18, Monday DINING ROOM MANAGEMENT. Great Service leads to happy customers, while that can apply to any business, especially true in the foodservice and hospitality industry. Review the Fundamentals, refine your skills, and gather insight that will enable you to achieve and maintain the level of service your establishment is striving for. The details of the lecture will be: Learn the fundamentals and philosophy of new American professional service. Develop a dining aroma as personality. Discover ways to hire effectively and motivate front-of-the-house staff. Analyze customer expectations and create unique service signatures. Gain the skills necessary for hands-on management of the dining room and Study aspects of classical service, and how they differ from the emerging new style of American service. The lecturer will be Chef Edgar Grajo who is presently employed at the Culinary Institute of America as a Production Chef for Special Events and occasionally as a Teaching Assistant. He graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a Degree of Hotel and Restaurant Management. He worked as Food and Beverage Director in Holiday Inn, Marriot and Restaurant Manager in Hyatt, Executive Chef at Holiday Inn, Marina Inn and Auburn Hotel and also worked as Executive Sous Chef on Konoci Harbor Resort, Hyatt and Freemark Abbey Restaurant. Through lectures, discussions and a variety of teaching tools, we will supply you with wealth of information to take away with you and implement at your restaurants. Please bring your dining room design in relation to the kitchen and/or sketch. The fee for this program is P1,800.00 including lecture notes and lunch. NEW CLASS.

July 19, Tuesday RESTAURANT ACCOUNTING AND COST CONTROL. Successful and profitable food and beverage operations required volume and cost control. Learn how both can help your business's bottom line, thus this one day seminar designed to give you basic day to day better grasp of the key financial elements in restaurant management. You will learn the Principles and measurement of costs. Discover how and why you have to move from monthly income statements to weekly inventory control procedures to daily control practices and Learn the process and procedures for effective cost control in the areas of menu development, purchasing, receiving, labor, inventory, storing and issuing, portioning and preparing and serving and security. Learning activities such lecture and discussion, printed materials, forms and lunch is included for P1,800.00. The class will be handled by Chef Edgar Grajo from the Culinary Institute of America as a Production Chef for Special Events and occasionally as a Teaching Assistant. He graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a Degree of Hotel and Restaurant Management. He worked as Food and Beverage Director in Holiday Inn, Marriot and Restaurant Manager in Hyatt, Executive Chef at Holiday Inn, Marina Inn and Auburn Hotel and also worked as Executive Sous Chef on Konoci Harbor Resort, Hyatt and Freemark Abbey Restaurant. NEW CLASS.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

BASIC COOKING AND BAKING FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS

Course Description:
Basic food preparations and cooking methods for vegetable, pork, beef, poultry and seafood. French sauces and their variations as well as common terms used in international kitchens. Baking methods and techniques for pies, cookies, cakes and breads. All classes are hands-on with lecture and discussions.

This hands-on series is intended for individuals or kitchen enthusiasts who have no chance or schedules to take the full time professional culinary program and yet would like to acquire necessary basic skills, tools and techniques to enable them to enhance their careers or enter a more lucrative world of recreational and even, professional cooking and baking.

TESDA ACCREDITED PROGRAM. This 12-day, 18-session course will be handled by Gino Gonzalez who recently trained in the school of 5-Star Michelin Chef Alain Ducasse in France, the Culinary Institute of America, and Hannah Homera former Kitchen Operations Manager and Consultant of Dome Café Franchise Corporation who also recently took up chocolate artistry at the Callebaut Chocolate Academy and pastry classes at the American Institute of Baking. The class will be limited to 25 students. Enrollment includes ingredients, uniform, manual and chef's kit. Classes will be on a thrice a week schedule from 9:00-4:00 p.m. The program will also have an internship or in-house practicum for 150 hours on actual restaurant conditions. Classes will start end of July

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WIRELESS GETS WILDER

By Walter Ray Choi

"I WAS GREETED WITH A MISSILE POINTING STRAIGHT AT ME

"I was greeted with a missile pointing straight at me from the wing of a fighter jet. For the first time in my life I had entered a war zone," recants Paul Salazar, an account executive of a Manila based web design outfit. Paul had just arrived from France the day before, more excited than I ever knew him to be, telling his story from the front.

First I had to ask how a Filipino keyboard jock was suddenly staring down a missile on a supersonic jet. "Ok, the plane was mounted and the bomb wasn't active, but it was a war zone nonetheless. This is a place where they design and build a lot of classified military hardware. My company is one of the final three bidders to produce a website for this major European defense contractor based just outside of Paris. They spend so much on R&D that they have such a small budget for their website, which they end up outsourcing offshore, which is fortunate for us. Three companies had to present working websites, with images and information pre-cleared by the company as fit for public viewing."

"Security was so tight that gas couldn't pass. I faxed a copy of my passport to their headquarters a week before I even entered France. I just hoped their intelligence search dismisses the incidents they uncover from my frat days," he said laughing. "Security here made airport security seem like a mall bag check. They did three x-ray scans of my laptop, and questioned me about my PLDT WeRoam aircard."

ACCESS ON ALL FRONTS

"The guard told me that I couldn't bring my PLDT WeRoam aircard into the facility because of the sensitive nature of a military facility. I tried to explain to him that it only worked in the Philippines. He insisted that I prove it to him, so I turned on my laptop and fired up my aircard watcher. I was surprised to see I was getting signal, and I was running online. I pleaded with him if I could bring it in. He said something in French over his radio."

"A guard, dressed in dark blue fatigues, carrying a sub-machine gun showed up. This quasi-military guy was going to escort me to the executive floor. I didn't know whether to be proud or embarrassed to be led by armed guard. He was following so closely I was scared to even open up my laptop and tell head office back in Manila that I was online with PLDT WeRoam in France."

"The two other companies bidding were already at the office, one team of Indians, the other Americans. Not only was I the only one man team, but I was the only one with what they thought was a bodyguard. I recognized one of the Americans – he was featured as one of these paper millionaires before the dotcom bubble burst. I was with exceptional company."

"I heard 'Out! Out! Out!' barked through the door before I saw the Indians scurrying out of the office. They didn't even last 10 minutes. The Americans looked nervous, knowing they were going to face an angry exec. 'You must be crazy to think I am going to pay this much!' screamed the same voice after a few minutes of a short presentation. I try to swallow the lump in my throat as I went in, all alone."

"After a quick and cold introduction, I give him my laptop, complete with my PLDT WeRoam aircard plugged in. He surfed through the site quietly but with an intense, analyzing look in his face. The wall of dozens of model fighter planes behind him were all pointing their mini missiles at me. I could only wonder if I was going to fly high, or crash and burn."

"I'll never forget the words that came out of his mouth, 'This is the first time today I didn't waste my time'. He sounded like a completely different person from the one that looked over the other two proposals. 'If the online trial goes well, then you get the contract.'"

"I told him straight out, 'I'm not here to waste your time, sir. This is an online trial right now.' His intense look eased into a smile. It was my chance to pull the contract from my briefcase. I told him that once he signed off on it, the site would belong to them. All the work building the website had culminated into him taking 30 seconds to skim the paperwork, and sign off on it. Just like that, I pulled off the biggest and most prestigious contract in my company's history. I wrote a short, nonchalant email on my laptop before leaving his office, telling them the contract is signed and the website could go up."

"I could barely contain my excitement as I headed out the office. I tried hard to retain my composure and professionalism. I even forgot about my armed escort guiding me out of the facility. As soon as I got out, I went over to the closest café. I wanted to celebrate out of the view of the client."

BOTTOMLESS WI-FI BACK HOME

"I flipped open my laptop in the café waiting for a response from my boss through my PLDT WeRoam GPRS/EDGE connection. I found my insomniac boss online at an Airborne Wi-Fi hotspot in an all night café back in Manila, with speedy unlimited Wi-Fi broadband waking him up rather than sedating him, which he also accesses through his PLDT WeRoam."

"My boss chatted with me online for a few minutes. He told me the reason why he sent me to France is because he knew I could do it. He was up all night, not being able to sleep because he knew I was on the other side of the world, with the company's future in my hands."

"I asked him how my PLDT WeRoam could work in France. He said he signed up for international roaming as soon as it was available, right when I was on transit to Europe. He thought it would help out with the presentation. I told him it would have been a dead deal without it. I guess this is why he is the boss. He told me that I deserved to have a drink on him for sealing the deal. I told him I was already having it."

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Let's party!

Here's a checklist of everything you need to host a fun evening and celebrate Mama's birthday

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

MAMA is celebrating her 60th birthday in October and we would like to give her a beautiful cake that tastes good. I don't like the overdecorated ones full of sugar or the common chocolate or mocha. The nice ones look better than they taste. Others are too ordinary. We have caterers, games and a short program but I want to make it fun, not ordinary. Any recommendations/ideas?

JUNIE

Well, Junie, you have limited me to nothing except "Mumbo Jumbo" Cake. This year I received the best birthday cake! My good friend, chef Raimund Braun, of the Diamond Hotel concocted a tiered birthday cake for me and it was absolutely delicious. When I asked him what it was, he had no name for it because he just put it together. So we ended our conversation by calling it Mumbo Jumbo. It is four-cakes-in-one: chocolate moist cake (more like a delicious chocolate bar made into a cake, yum!), baked cheesecake, fruit cream cake and a vanilla roulade with chocolate truffle filling. Essentially, there's a cake to feed everyone's fancy!

I've coerced him to sell this creation and I'm sure that if you call to order, they'll make one just for you!

Speaking of ideas, these are some of my best-kept party secrets.

- Music—Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, from duos to full orchestra (Det, 0917-3785591). Da Capo Acoustic Jazz Quartet, call Royce at 0917-8915865.
- Host, should you need one, call Peps Avecilia at 0917-8437377. He speaks well, is humorous, can talk endlessly and hold your guests' attention for hours!
- Props for your party or even plays: Arnaldo Zamora 0927-7201968. Works well and easy to talk to, meaning, *madaling tawaran*!
- Giveaways and party favors, Ingrid Firme at 0917-8258567. She can source anything for you. In any quantity, shape, form, budget or size! From imported shawls, elephant bells, garden incense, wooden Budah (Buddha?) candles, corporate stuff... Anything!
- Fun?! Well, real cool glitter tattoos, maybe? The adults always fall in line ahead of the kids! These are the guys from Boracay and their tattoos are skin patch tested and lasts seven days! Request for Pia Garovillo, she did the tattoos for my sister Cristy's party and was the best among those we've tried. Glimmer Art—0922-8027070.

Looks like you pretty much thought of everything else! Don't forget nice flowers, champagne and good wine! Here's wishing your mom, many more, good, healthy and happy years!

Please! How to make rice puto?

BERN

Why make rice *puto* when there's plenty in the *kanto-kanto*? Seriously, *putong bigas* and

LET'S/D3

MUMBO Jumbo by chef Raimund Braun

rev UP TO...
THIS SEASON, DISCOVER THE FAST, THE FUN AND THE FURIOUS IN GREAT VALUE SHOPPING AS SHOPWISE SETS THE TRAILS ABLAZE WITH TWO RED HOT NEW STORES!
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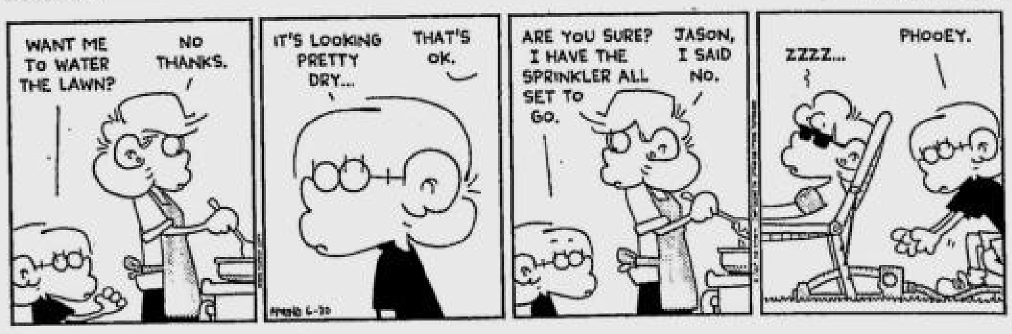
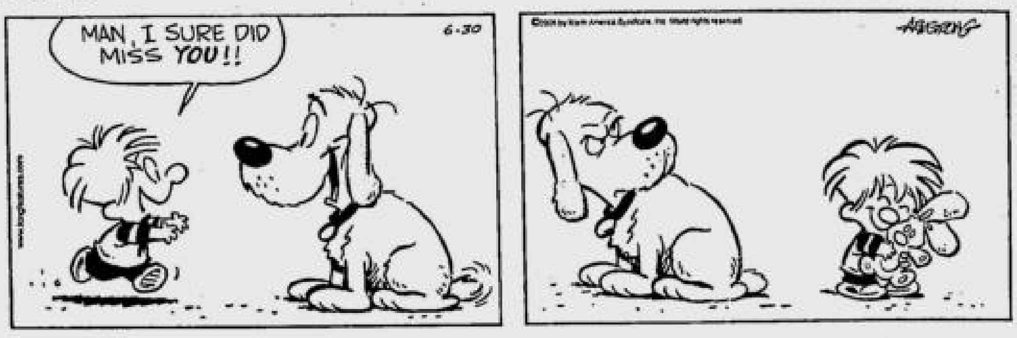
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WANT ME TO WATER THE LAWN?
NO THANKS.
IT'S LOOKING PRETTY DRY...
THAT'S OK.
ARE YOU SURE? I HAVE THE SPRINKLER ALL SET TO GO.
JASON, I SAID NO.
ZZZZ...
PHOOEY.
AMEND 6-30

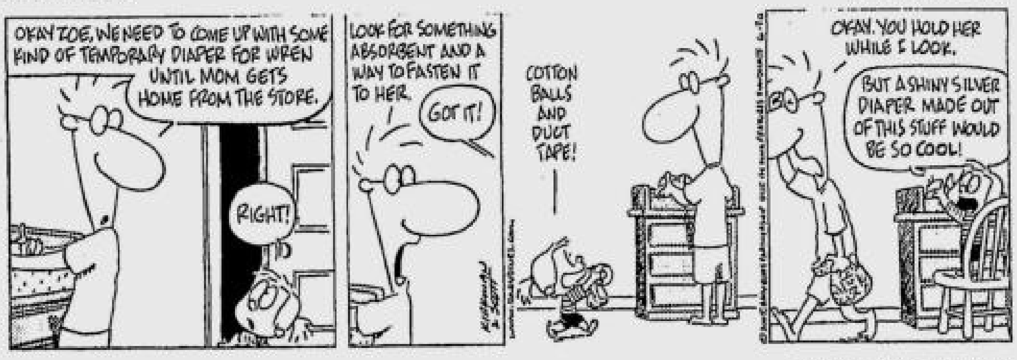
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MAN, I SURE DID MISS YOU!!
6-30
ARMSTRONG

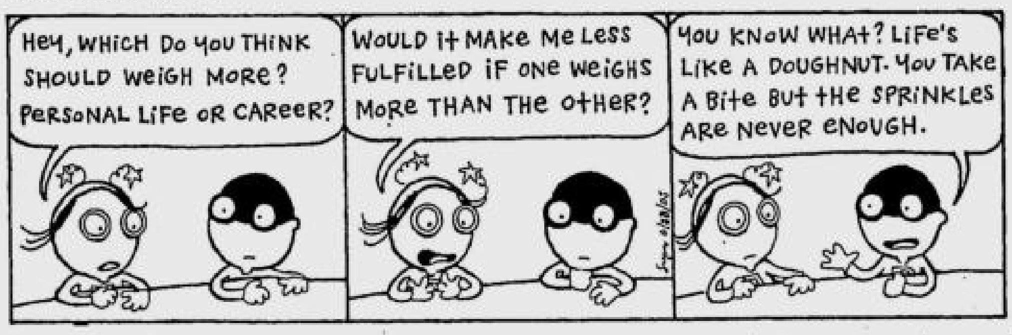
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY ZOE, WE NEED TO COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF TEMPORARY DIAPER FOR WREN UNTIL MOM GETS HOME FROM THE STORE.
RIGHT!
LOOK FOR SOMETHING ABSORBENT AND A WAY TO FASTEN IT TO HER.
GOT IT!
COTTON BALLS AND DUCT TAPE!
OKAY. YOU HOLD HER WHILE I LOOK.
BUT A SHINY SILVER DIAPER MADE OUT OF THIS STUFF WOULD BE SO COOL!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WHICH Do you THINK SHOULD WeIGH MORE? PeRSoNAL LiFe oR CAReeR?
WOULD it MAKE Me LeSS FULFILLeD iF oNe WeIGHS MoRe THAN THe otHeR?
You KNOW WHAT? LiFe's LiKe A DOUGHNUT. You TAKe A Bite But tHe SPRiNKLeS ARe NeVeR eNOUGH.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're multitalented, and you multitask. You also know how to parlay your talents and technical skills into money. You're a survivor, and this gives you an appreciation for handling your finances. Be open to increased solitude in the year ahead because you have some serious thinking to do. (And you have something important to learn.) Birthdate of: Fantasia Barrino, singer; Vincent D'Onofrio, actor; Lena Horne, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Many of you have never enjoyed such good friendships. This year promotes your relations with partners and close friends in a lovely way! This good fortune lasts until November. Yay!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This year, you have a better chance of improving your job than you have had for more than a decade. Be open to ways to do this. Bosses and co-workers will help you. (Thank goodness.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make sure you make vacation plans this year. It's your turn to go somewhere! You won't have another great chance like this for 12 more years.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Home, real estate and family matters look wonderful this year. These are areas that bring you joy and even increased profits. (It's an excellent time for real estate.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your happy frame of mind sends out positive vibes wherever you go. That's why others want to be in your company. Nobody likes a downer. People are attracted to positive energy!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Keep thinking of ways to improve your income, because you can do it. This is the year for you to get a better job or earn more money in some fashion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Once every 12 years, lucky Jupiter is in your sign. It's your turn now; you will continue to have this blessing until November. Make the most of it!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are approaching a career peak. To be more specific, you are approaching a time of harvest where whatever you have planted will now come to fruition.

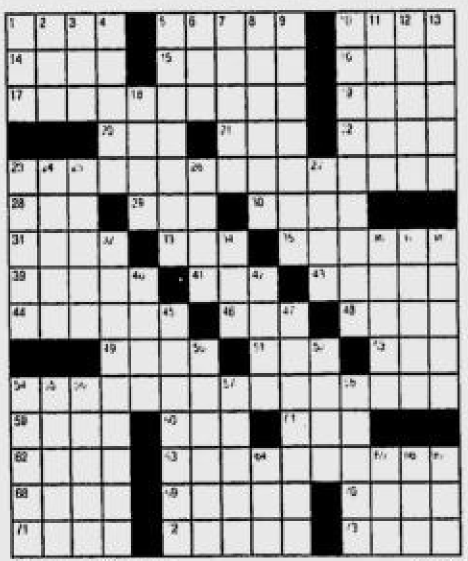
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You've had to get along with less in the past few years. Possibly, your partner changed jobs or something like that. (Always pay your rent, because your friends will always feed you.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Lucky Jupiter is still at the top of your chart, bringing you all kinds of opportunities to improve your career and your reputation among your peers. This is an excellent year for your sign!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel opportunities abound now. You're going places! Some of you are exploring educational and publishing situations. It all looks good.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You definitely benefit from the wealth of others this year. Something another owns becomes useful to you or is a true treat. (You deserve this.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

6/30/05

ACROSS
1 Paint layer
5 Golden-touch king
10 Aid a con man
14 Maui tourist destination
15 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
16 Loyal
17 Start of a quip
19 Rotation
20 Sphere
21 Choose
22 Adam's grandson
23 Part 2 of quip
28 D.C. wheeler-dealer
29 Of the ear: pref.
30 Kernel
31 Part of U.A.E.
33 Bygone Eur. realm
35 Pee Wee and Della
39 Less common
41 Part 3 of quip
43 Intended
44 Half an Iris Murdoch title
46 Appendage
48 Certain
49 Como __ Usted?
51 Persian or Siamese
53 Unknown John
54 Part 4 of quip
59 Any part of JFK
60 MO town
61 Clean air grp.
62 Paul of "Scarface"
63 End of quip
68 Wrinkle remover
69 Heavenly: pref.
70 Traditional stories
71 __ Xiaoping
72 Aromatic compound
73 Hook's mate

DOWN
1 Greek letter
2 Lummox
3 Picnic invader
4 Western lake
5 Scottish play
6 Nev. neighbor
7 Showroom models
8 Hebrew letters
9 More briny
10 Audience
11 Shoe designer Magli
12 Continental cash
13 Past, present or future
18 Cogito __ sum
23 Visually striking abstract style
24 Singer Jones
25 __ Boothe Luce
26 Singer Amos
27 Appear
32 Attacking
34 Alfonso's queen
36 Medina man
37 Sign up: var
38 Pittsburgh product
40 Hebrew letter
42 Oil company
45 On the table
47 Went in the direction of
50 John Jacob and Mary
52 Keyboard mistake
54 Shy
55 Habituate
56 Sheer fabric
57 Pull up
58 Places for murals
64 Opp. from SSW
65 Actor Herbert
66 Galena or mispickel
67 Teeny

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	E	A	T	■	S	P	A	R	■	H	A	T	E	S
A	T	R	A	■	A	R	C	H	■	A	D	O	P	T
T	H	E	C	O	L	O	R	O	F	M	O	N	E	Y
T	E	N	O	R	■	F	E	D	U	P	■	S	E	X
E	R	A	S	E	S	■	S	A	J	A	K	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	E	L	■	■	I	G	U	A	N	A
O	T	T	O	■	A	L	O	F	■	E	D	S	E	L
N	E	W	M	A	N	A	N	D	C	R	U	I	S	E
U	R	I	E	L	■	N	O	N	C	■	S	A	S	S
S	I	N	G	L	E	■	■	A	L	P	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	C	H	E	S	■	T	O	T	E	R	S
U	S	A	■	L	U	L	U	S	■	S	U	S	H	I
F	A	S	T	E	D	D	I	E	F	E	L	S	O	N
O	S	H	E	A	■	E	T	A	L	■	S	A	N	K
S	H	Y	E	R	■	R	E	L	Y	■	A	Y	E	S

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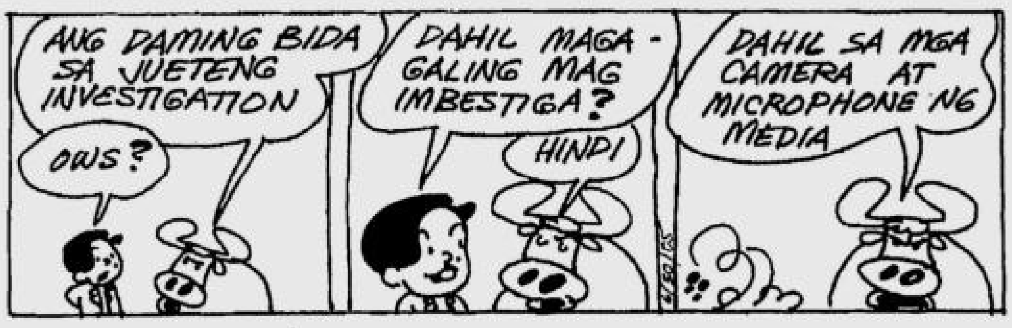
6/29/05

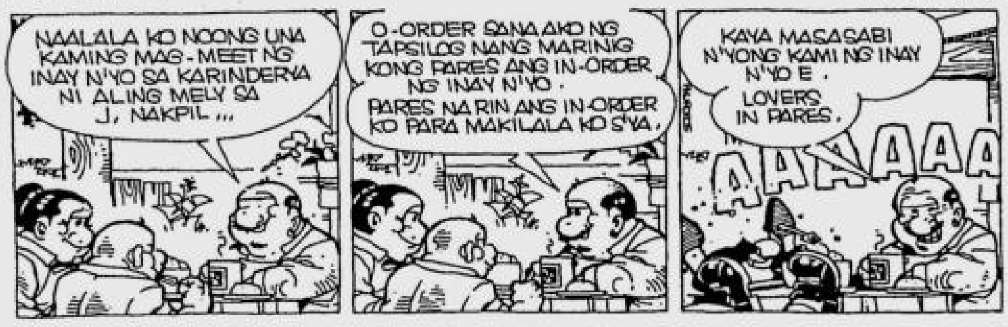
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMING BIDA SA JUETENG INVESTIGATION
OWS?
DAHIL MAGA-GALING MAG IMBESTIGA?
HINDI
DAHIL SA MGA CAMERA AT MICROPHONE NG MEDIA
6/30/05

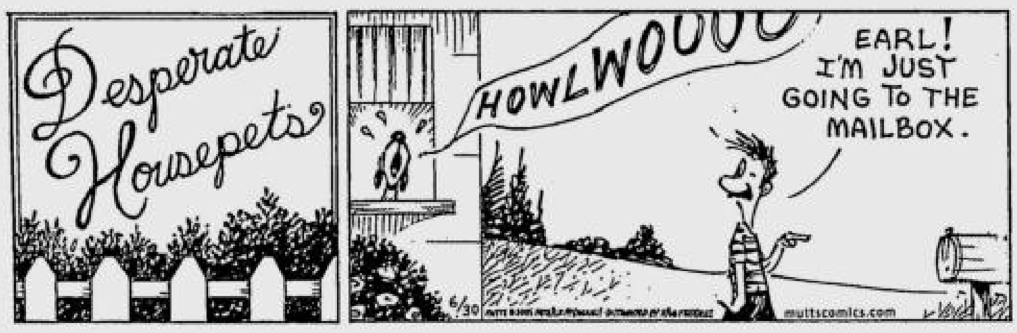
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAALALA KO NOONG UNA KAMING MAG-MEET NG INAY N'YO SA KARINDERYA NI ALING MELY SA J. NAKPIL...
O-ORDER SANA AKO NG TAPSILOG NANG MARINIG KONG PARES ANG IN-ORDER NG INAY N'YO.
PARES NA RIN ANG IN-ORDER KO PARA MAKILALA KO S'YA.
KAYA MASASABI N'YONG KAMI NG INAY N'YO E. LOVERS IN PARES.
AAAAAA

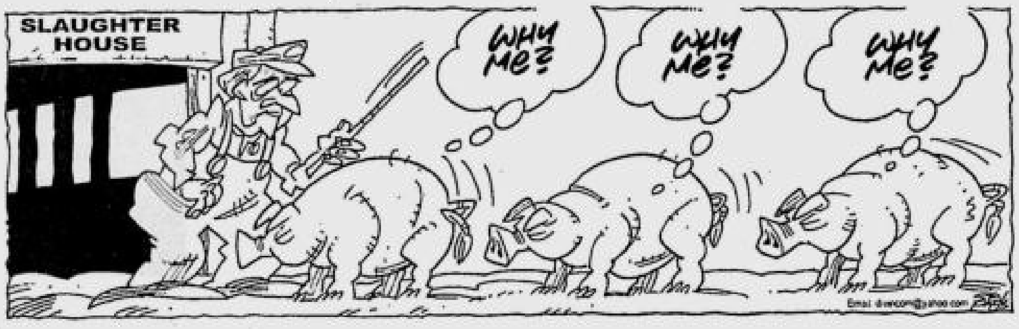
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Desperate Housepets
HOWLWOOOO
EARL! I'M JUST GOING TO THE MAILBOX.
6/30
muttscomics.com

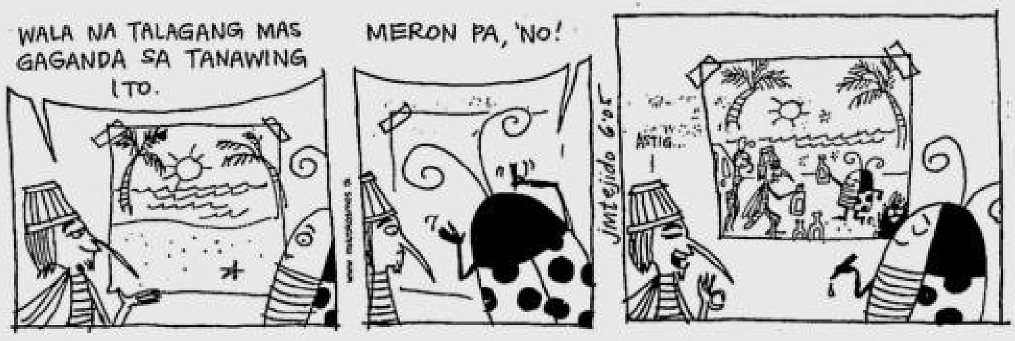
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SLAUGHTER HOUSE
WHY ME?
WHY ME?
WHY ME?
Email: divicom@yahoo.com

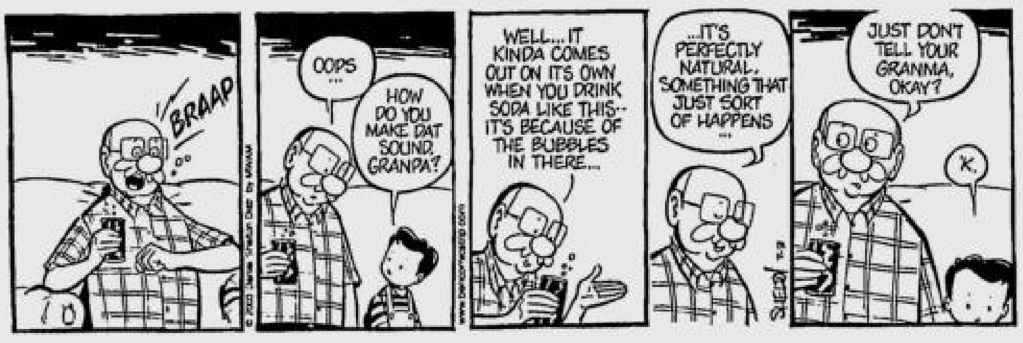
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WALA NA TALAGANG MAS GAGANDA SA TANAWING ITO.
MERON PA, 'NO!
ASTIG...
jmtejido 6'05

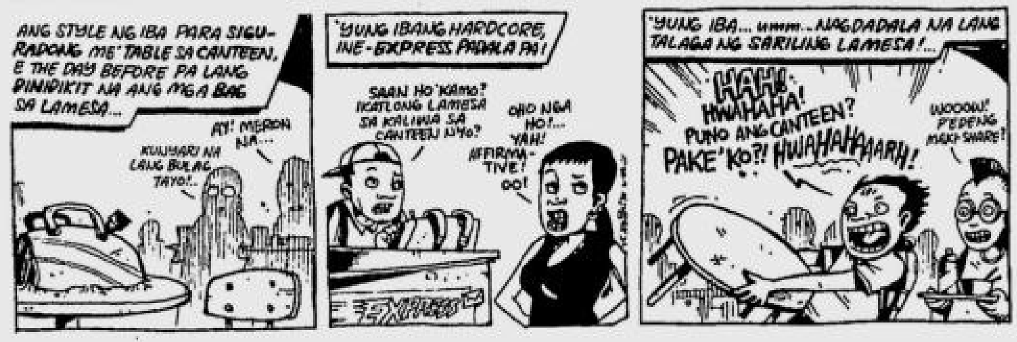
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BRAAP
OOPS ...
HOW DO YOU MAKE DAT SOUND, GRANPA?
WELL... IT KINDA COMES OUT ON ITS OWN WHEN YOU DRINK SODA LIKE THIS-- IT'S BECAUSE OF THE BUBBLES IN THERE...
...IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL, SOMETHING THAT JUST SORT OF HAPPENS ...
JUST DON'T TELL YOUR GRANMA, OKAY?
K.

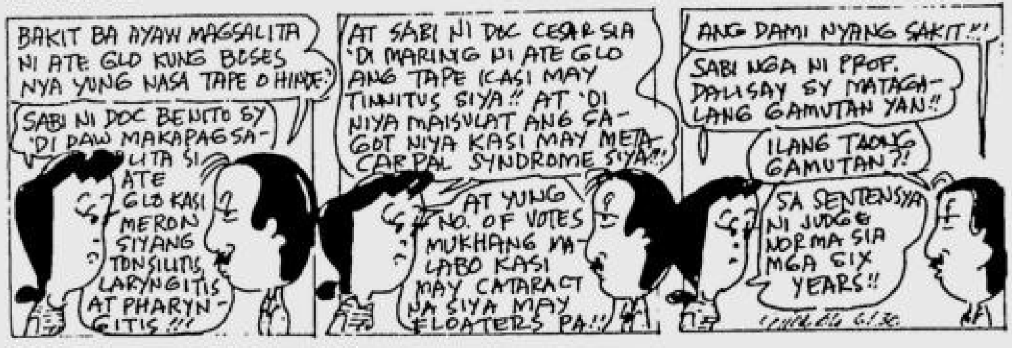
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANG STYLE NG IBA PARA SIGURADONG ME' TABLE SA CANTEEN, E THE DAY BEFORE PA LANG DINIDIKIT NA ANG MGA BAG SA LAMESA...
KUNYARI NA LANG BULAG TAYO!..
AY! MERON NA...
'YUNG IBANG HARDCORE, INE-EXPRESS PADALA PA!
SAAN HO' KAMO? IKATLONG LAMESA SA KALIWA SA CANTEEN N'YO?
OHO NGA HO!... YAH! AFFIRMATIVE! OO!
'YUNG IBA... umm... NAGDADALA NA LANG TALAGA NG SARILING LAMESA!...
HAH! HWAHAHA! PUNO ANG CANTEEN? PAKE' KO?! HWAHAHAAARH!
WOOOW! PEDENG MAKI-SHARE?

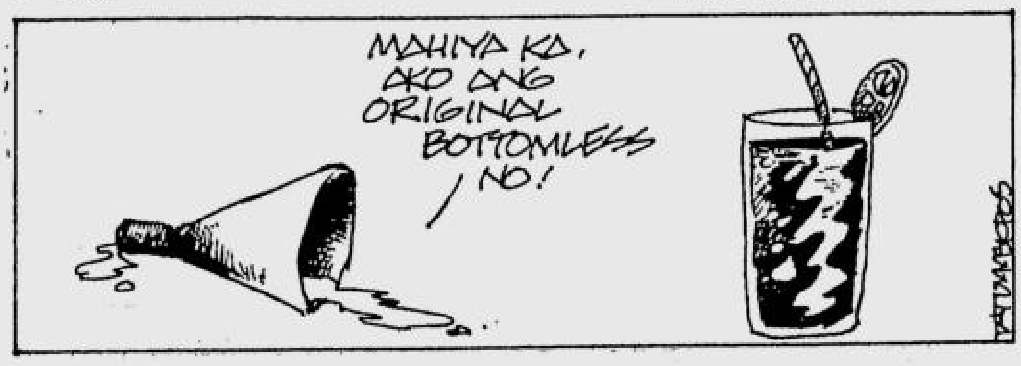
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT BA AYAW MAGSALITA NI ATE GLO KUNG BESES NYA YUNG NASA TAPE O HINDE?
SABI NI DOC BENITO SY 'DI DAW MAKAPAGSALITA SI ATE GLO KASI MERON SIYANG TONSILITIS, LARYNGITIS AT PHARYNGITIS!!!
AT SABI NI DOC CESAR SIA 'DI MARINIG NI ATE GLO ANG TAPE KASI MAY TINNITUS SIYA!! AT 'DI NIYA MAISULAT ANG SAGOT NIYA KASI MAY METACARPAL SYNDROME SIYA!!
AT YUNG NO. OF VOTES MUKHANG MALABO KASI MAY CATARACT NA SIYA MAY FLOATERS PA!!
ANG DAMI NYANG SAKIT!!
SABI NGA NI PROF. DALISAY SY MATAGALANG GAMUTAN YAN!!
ILANG TAONG GAMUTAN?!
SA SENTENSYA NI JUDGE NORMA SIA MGA SIX YEARS!!
6.1.30

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAHIYA KA, AKO ANG ORIGINAL BOTTOMLESS NO!

Nutritious foods for active kids

ANOTHER day in school means children and teenagers have to load up on high-energy meals and snacks.

Breakfast is important because it jump-starts the system and provides fuel to see students through a day full of lessons, physical exertion, exams, and homework. For children, especially, it is an important opportunity to take in essential nutrients because not only are they at a very active, demanding stage in their life, they are also still growing and their bodies need all the energy and the nutrients they can get.

The right mix of energy—carbohydrates, protein and fat—collectively called macronutrients, will allow for healthy growth and development. Over half of our energy should come from carbohydrates so we should get lots of it, aiming for 5-12 servings of grain products such as cereals, breads, pasta, rice and other grains, as well as 5-10 servings of vegetables and fruits.

Kids missing breakfast are more prone to feeling tired, irritable and distracted inside the classroom. On the other hand, children who take time to have a complete breakfast rich in macronutrients perform better in school. They also have the energy to maintain their attentiveness throughout the day and still have enough energy to accomplish their homework when they get back to the house.

If everyone is in a rush to be somewhere, as in the case of many homes where both parents have to work, quick but complete breakfast can still be possible, thanks to foods like instant noodles.

Giving your children macronutrient-rich snacks is also going a step further in providing them with the energy they need throughout the day. The best snacks can take the edge off hunger before the next meals while still managing to be nutritious. Instant noodles, for example, are portable, easy to prepare and provide generous amount of macronutrients (go for brands that are fortified with additional macronutrients, or vitamins and minerals).

Innovative wasabi, coffee recipes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

July 1—Wasabi (all new)—Phyllo Spring Rolls, Tuna Tartar with Wasabi Cream Sauce and Salsa Fresca, Crab Tempura with Caviar Wasabi, Cream Stir-fried Shrimp in Wasabi Butter, Delicious Angus Roast Beef with Honey Wasabi Crust, Wasabi Fried Rice, Salmon Belly with Sweet Miso Wasabi Sauce, Wasabi Potatoes, Dessert

July 2—Melt-in-Your-Mouth Ribs: Chinese Style, Lamb Teriyaki, Fried Honey Ribs, American Diner Style, Fruit Glazed Ribs, Garlic Ribs, Delicious Oriental Style, Baked with Soda Barbecue Sauce; salsas, side dishes and desserts; Cooking Secrets Revealed

July 4—The Ultimate Adobo Class—Learn up to six Adobo recipes from meat (pork, beef, lamb) to seafood, from classic to contemporary; flavored rice to go with Adobo (different kinds), Adobo Rice and *Acharas*

July 6—Cooking with Coffee (all new)—Learn other uses for coffee beans and make delicious flavored meals such as Beef Coffee Kebabs, Coffee Stew, Roast Chicken in Coffee Marinade, Coffee Bean Roast Beef, Coffee Ribs; side dishes, dessert

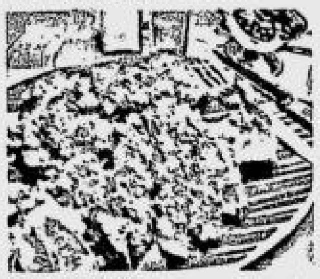
Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.

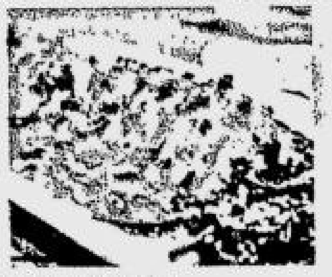
Knorr
Enjoy Food!
Try something new. Give your tastebuds a break at Greenbelt 3!
Big Buddha's Steamed Fish Fillet with Garlic

most ordered dish!
#1

Other popular dishes!

Bubba Gump's Old Fashioned New England Clam Chowder


Krocodile Grill's Deviled Crispy Pata


Hue's Stuffed Tofu

The next time you visit **Greenbelt 3** in Makati, discover what makes these dishes popular among diners who know how to enjoy great tasting food!

Unilever foodsolutions
Also try Di Marks' Chicken Croquetas, Good Earth's Beef with Broccoli, Magnum's Paella, Masas' Sinigang na Hipon and MyLK's Pork Tenderloin Steaks

Let's ...

From page D1

puto pao top the recipe request rating for *kakanin*. Sorry, took me a while to respond to this because no one seemed to have a recipe. But since you asked for it, here it is! I'd like to thank my student Christy Castillo, who makes everything herself (from salted eggs to *pan de sal* which she refuses to buy) for this recipe. According to her, this tastes like the ones from Pangasinan!

Rice Puto

2 c long grain rice, uncooked
1 c cooked rice
5 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
1 ½ c water or second extraction coconut milk
1 ½ c white sugar—if brown, reduce amount to 30 percent

- Soak uncooked rice in water overnight
- Add cooked rice then grind
- Let sit 3 hours or until bubbly
- Add rest of the ingredients
- Pour into molds and steam 25 mins.

I own a café in the south. It might be the cooking done in my shop but the aircon is only cold after it's serviced. Do you know an aircon cleaning service because I am not happy with mine.

LYNETTE

Sure do! And he's very good, plus he's decent and honest! He will never put one over you. Except that please tell him to be careful with your walls! Call Mang June at 8681073.

Sinful 'tocino'

The Mabanta Tocino. Sinfully delicious!

A must try! My brother Boy is lucky to have Roger Mabanta as a friend and so are we. Each time he comes to visit, he has with him a tray of the most heavenly Tocino del Cielos that his wife makes. I've been asking my brother to beg them to sell. Maybe Manong Boy has had enough of me and Roger, enough of him. They finally agreed! You have to order now—0917461952.

For questions and comments text 0917-8399888.

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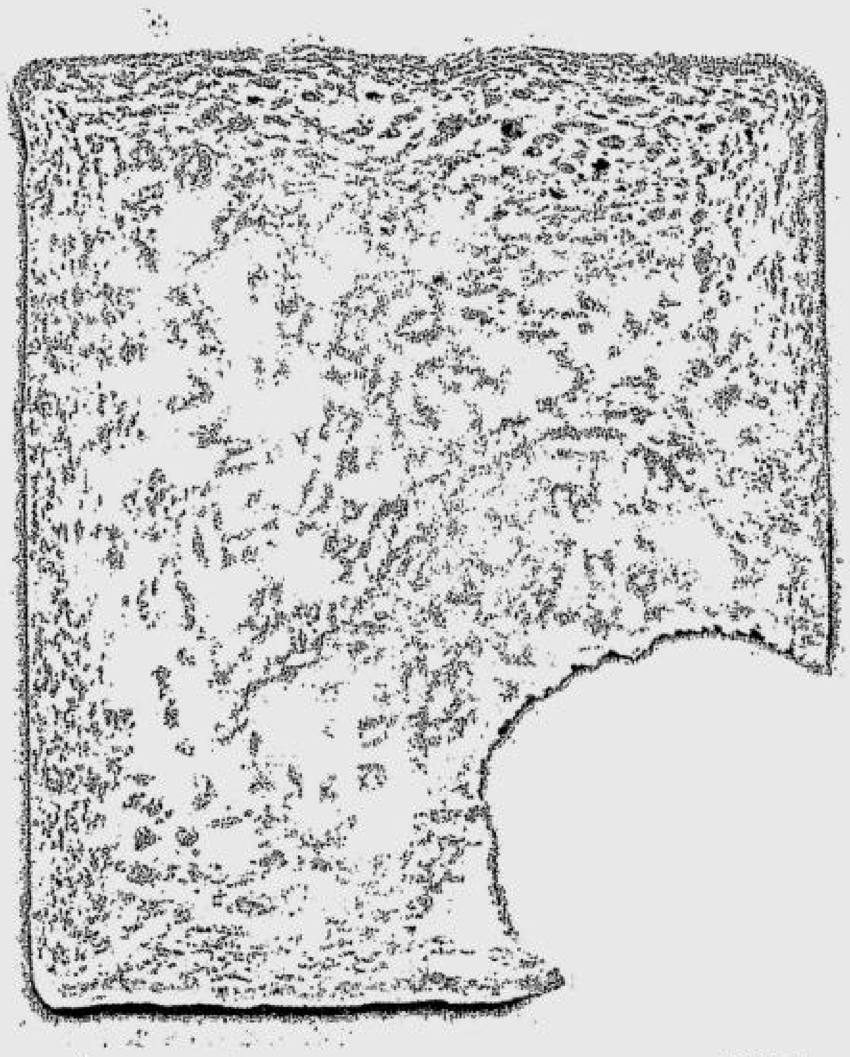
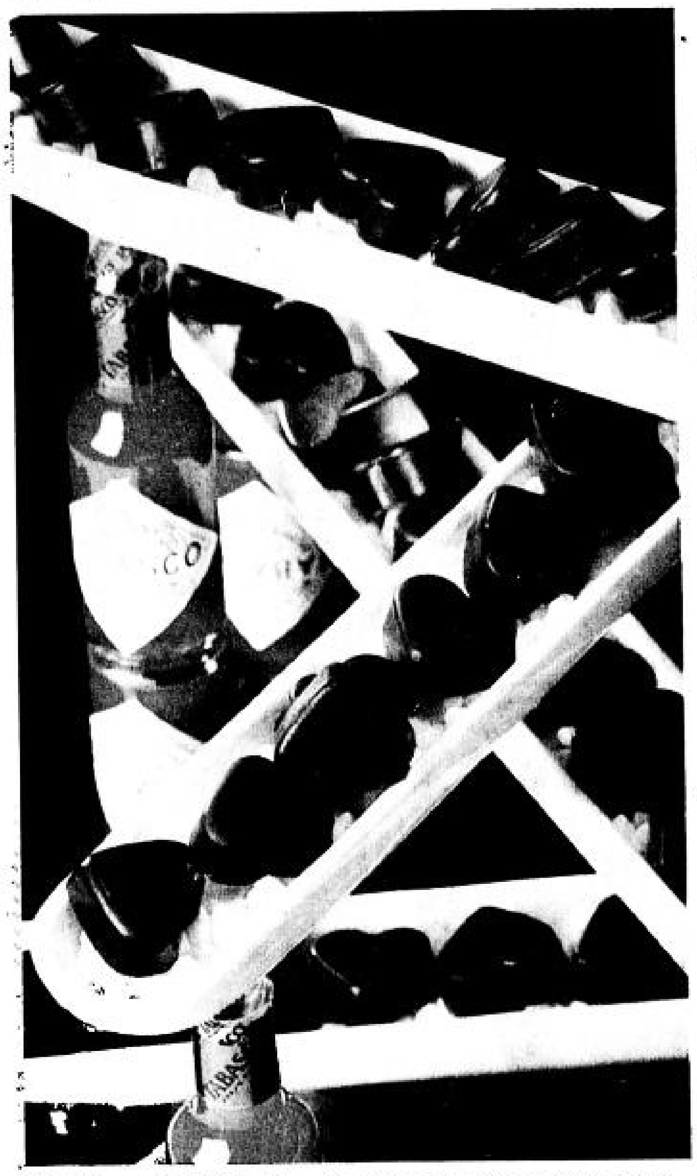
[illegible]
at PINNACLE HEALTH POINTE Eastwood
June 27 [illegible]
June 28 [illegible]
June 29 [illegible]
June 30 Anniversary Day [illegible]
July 1 [illegible]
July 2 [illegible]
Media Partners: Men's Health
Sponsors: [illegible]



New Magnolia Best Fruits
P18.90*
Fruity goodness sa bawat kagat.
*Suggested retail price. Also available in strawberry flavor.

Lucky 7 treat

DINING OUT



EDSA Shangri-La's Bakeshop offers Tabasco Pralines until today. As the praline melts in your mouth, the Tabasco's subtle heat enhances the richness of premium Swiss chocolate. Call 6338888.

GRILLA Bar and Grill celebrates its 7th anniversary today with a treat. Grilla will hold the Lucky 7 promo where every group of diners gets a chance to throw a pair of dice to get a Lucky 7 combination. Guests can enjoy a 70-percent discount on their bill if they get the Lucky 7 combination. Grilla will also introduce a menu of Grilled Pizza, Grilled Porkchop with tropical sauce, Grilled Oyster Rockefeller, Lechon Baka, Tinapang Pla-Pla, Sizzling Mussels with Coconut Milk and Cheese and Oriental Salad with orange vinaigrette dressing. Call 6329691 (Libis, QC); 8998775 (Rockwell Drive, Makati); 7266200 (The Promenade, Greenhills); and 6784664 (Antipolo).

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel features Mango Drizzle, its special drink for July. Call 8673333.

THE SULO Hotel's The Sushi Bar & Teppanyaki offers Bento Boxes from Monday to Friday. Enjoy a Japanese meal of appetizers, soup, main dish and dessert. Feast on dishes like Kalderetang Kambing, Hainanese Chicken and Rice, Singaporean Chili Prawns and Stir-fried Mixed Seafood and Vegetables at Café Paraiso or Lobby Lounge. Call 9245051 to 71.

EASTWOOD City gives you a one-of-a-kind treat with its Shop and Dine 'Til Midnight. With P500 accumulated or single receipt purchase, customers can exchange their receipts for freebies from Eastwood City stores, Monday to Thursday, at 12 midnight. Call 6876770 to 74.

HYATT Hotel and Casino Manila's Market Café showcases steamed, stir-fried, roasted and braised asparagus dishes at the restaurant's buffet spread. Call 2451234.

MANDARIN Oriental Manila presents Vietnamese Cuisine Pleasures July 4-15 at Captain's Bar. Featured are Beef Salad with roasted rice powder; Vietnamese Cold Spring Roll with prawn and pork meat; Pork Skin and Shrimp Soup; Beef Roll with ginger sauce; Grilled Chicken with lemon leaves and chili; Saigon Fried mini spring roll with minced pork and crab meat; Deep-fried Fish with five-color sauce; Grilled Prawn with lemon grass and chili; Sautéed Swimming Crab with tamarind sauce; and Sweet Coconut Milk with taro and dried fruits. Call 7508888.

SUPER Bowl of China Restaurant introduces crab dishes, such as Crab with Spicy Pepper, Crab with Sotanghon Hot Pot and Steamed Crab. Super Bowl of China is located at Glorietta 4; Jupiter St., Makati; SM Megastrip; Eastwood, Libis; Festival Mall, Alabang; Greenhills; SM City Fairview; Gateway Mall; and SM City North Edsa. Call 7378888 for delivery services.

UCC Coffee offers Japanese fusion meals and desserts like Blueberry Cheesecake, Tiramisu, Apple Crumb Pie a la Mode or Choco Fudge Cake with the siphon-brewed coffee. UCC has branches at Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Connecticut St., Greenhills, San Juan; The Podium, Ortigas Center; Forbes Town Center, Taguig City; and Paseo Center, Makati City. Soon to open is UCC Westgate Center, Alabang.

'QUEER' DINING AT M CAFÉ

KYAN Douglas (second from left) and Thom Felicia (extreme right) of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," in town recently for lecture demonstrations at Alabang Town Center and Greenbelt 3 sponsored by Ayala Land and Store Specialists, visited Museum Café for a special luncheon hosted by Ayala Land, Inc., and took time to pose with (from left) Martin Wisniewski, M Café's managing director, chef Sau del Rosario and Annabelle Wisniewski, M Café owner. M Café is at the G/F Ayala Museum's Glass Wing in Greenbelt 4.

Now in improved, easy-to-pour plastic bottle!
LOVE MY HONEY
Love My Honey
Nature's Original Sweetener
LOVE MY HONEY
100% Pure and Natural Honey
Imported from Argentina
NET WT 10 oz (284g)

Benefits of Honey:

- Energy booster.
- Use with water for weight loss and use with milk for weight gain.
- Controls coughing, sore throat, tonsilitis or continuous hiccups (1 spoonful 3 times a day).
- For constipation, take 50 gms. of honey with a glass of water.
- Instead of sugar, use honey with milk to prevent gastric trouble.
- Apply lemon extract with honey to remove blemishes and spots on the face.
- Apply honey with alcohol on scalp. It removes dandruff and improves hair growth.
- Honey with tomato extracts is very good in softening the skin, specially on the legs and hands.
- Application of honey mixed with apple juice makes skin soft and glowing.
- Honey mixed with vinegar makes teeth brighter and gums stronger.
- Apply a mixture of honey and lemon on your steamed face and leave it on for 20 minutes.
- Daily intake of honey is effective for patients with tuberculosis.
- Effective anti-microbial agent for minor burns and scrapes.
- In case of paralytic attack, drink 2 spoonfuls of honey in boiled water.
- Good for the heart.

Composition of Love My Honey:

- Vitamins and Minerals - Thiamin, niacin, riboflavin, pantothenic acid, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and zinc.
- Amino acids - 18 different amino acids, very rich in protein.
- Anti-oxidants - Several anti-oxidants and pinocembrin, which is unique to honey.

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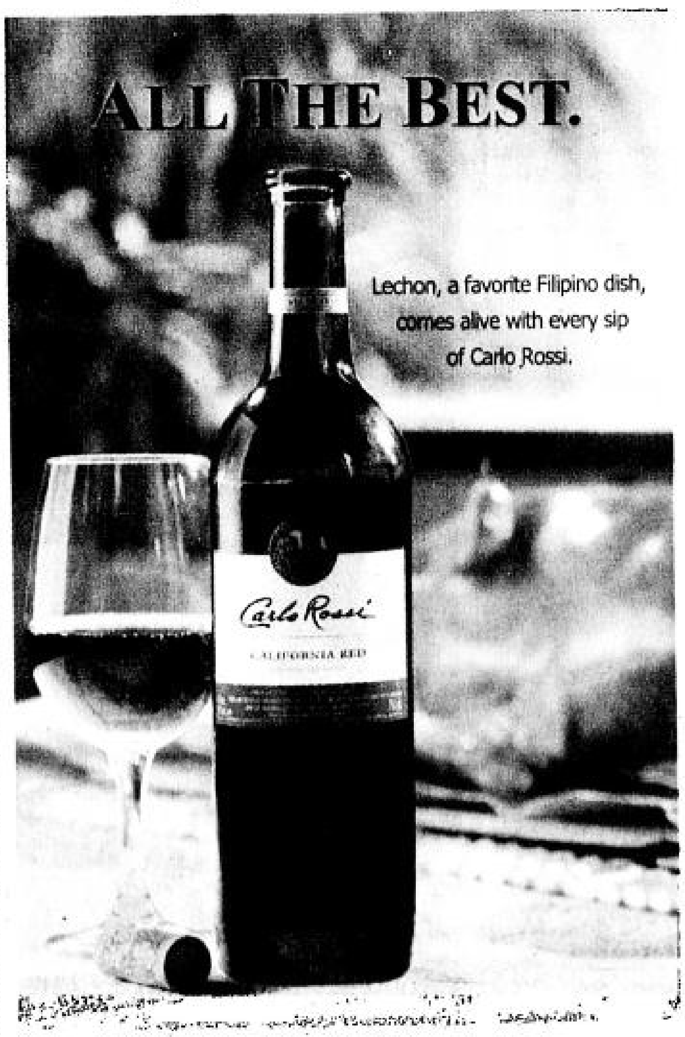
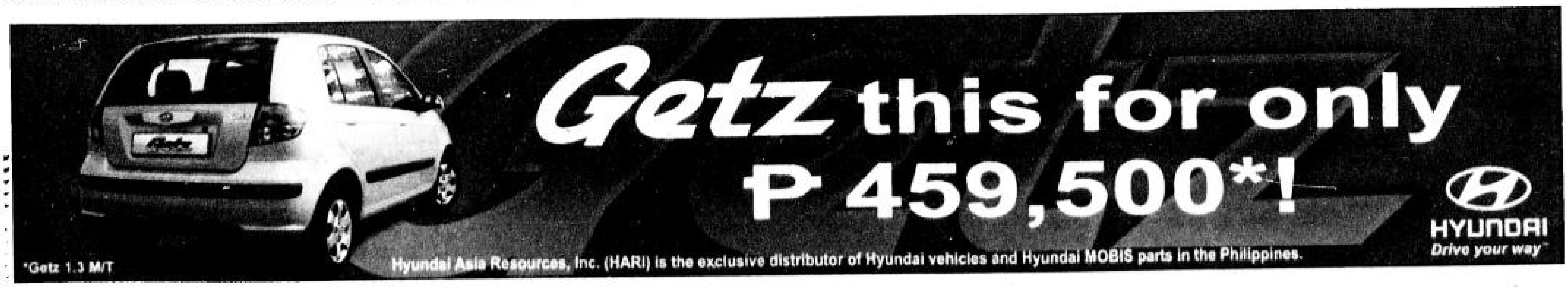


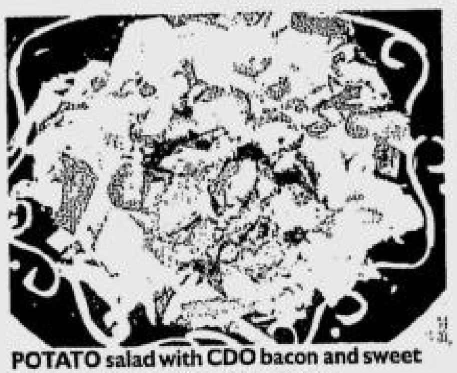
Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.

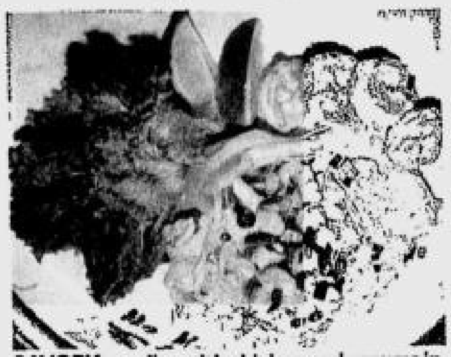


*Getz 1.3 M/T

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) is the exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles and Hyundai MOBIS parts in the Philippines.

CHEF Earl Francis Negal says creative presentation is essential in serving food.


POTATO salad with CDO bacon and sweet ham, seasoned with Lady's Choice mayonnaise, mustard, salt and pepper


SAVORY noodles with chicken and prawns in a lettuce cup concocted with Bounty Fresh chicken, tomato garlic prawn mix and Lee Kum Kee

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Hail to the chefs

SOME of the country's most talented young chefs are holding a series of cooking demonstrations in three Super SM Hypermarket outlets until July 17.

"Super Chefs, Super Treats" includes people behind some of Metro Manila's most popular specialty restaurants.

Demonstrations are held 4-6 p.m. daily at Super SM Hypermarket in Sucat, Parañaque; Bicutan, Taguig; and Marilao, Bulacan.

The series is an interactive activity. Participants can ask the chefs for cooking tips and secret techniques.

During the series' recent launch, chefs Vicky Villanueva and Glenda Wee of Stars Bar and Bizu Patisserie demonstrated how to whip up macaroni timbales, zesty garlic chicken, and noodles with chicken and prawns in lettuce cup.

Earl Francis Negal, who has worked with Azurro and Traders Hotel, was the other featured chef.

A subsequent demo featured Rowena Bautista, former executive chef of Moomba Bar and currently a professor at Most Institute; Marilen Ordoñez, culinary consultant and caterer; and Mike Vidad, part owner of Cusinero's Catering Company. They gave step-by-step instructions on how to make barbecue vegetable salad, rice balls and potato salad with bacon, ham and leeks.

Other culinary masters participating in the "Super Chefs, Super Treats" include chef Senen Araneta, executive chef of Verve Point Bar and Restaurant and recipient of the Center for Culinary Arts' (CCA) President Award; Carol Bancud, kitchen head of Traders Shangri-La Hotel; and Katrina Lacsamana, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America.

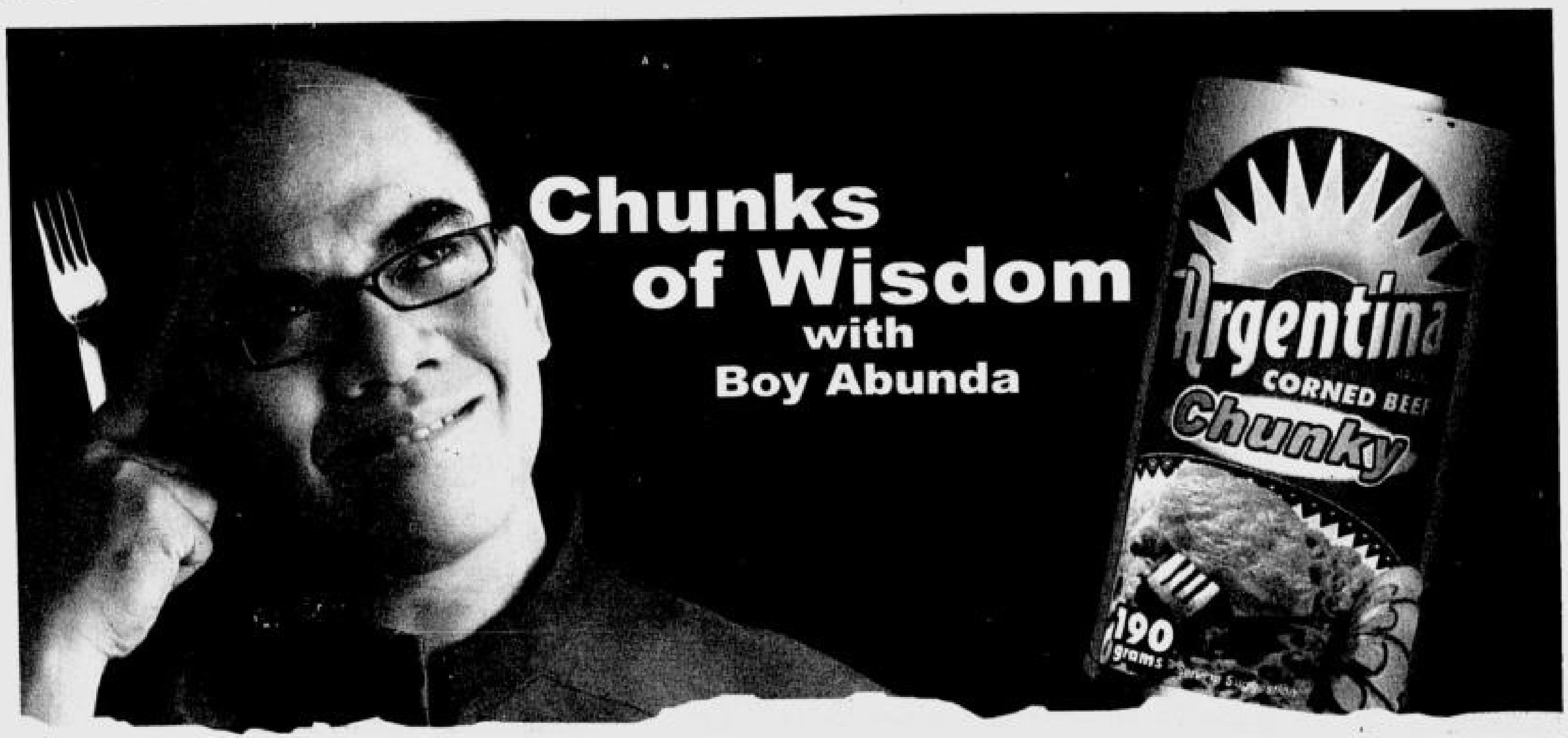
Also scheduled to participate in the series are Mia Yan, who trained in several culinary institutions; Mia Zuzuregui, a CCA alumna and occasional food writer; Red Agustin, executive chef of Quisine Restaurant; and Grace Tan, CCA graduate and caterer.

"Super Chefs, Super Treats" is sponsored by CDO Bibbo Hotdog, Maggi, Bounty Fresh, Mama Sita's, Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog, Lee Kum Kee, Hunt's Lady's Choice, McCormick, Nestlé, and Fabtech.

CHEF Marilen Ordoñez

CHEF Vicky Villanueva

CHEF Mike Vidad


Chunks of Wisdom
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How do you choose the chunkier corned beef? Chew!

Chunkier corned beef
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and so good,
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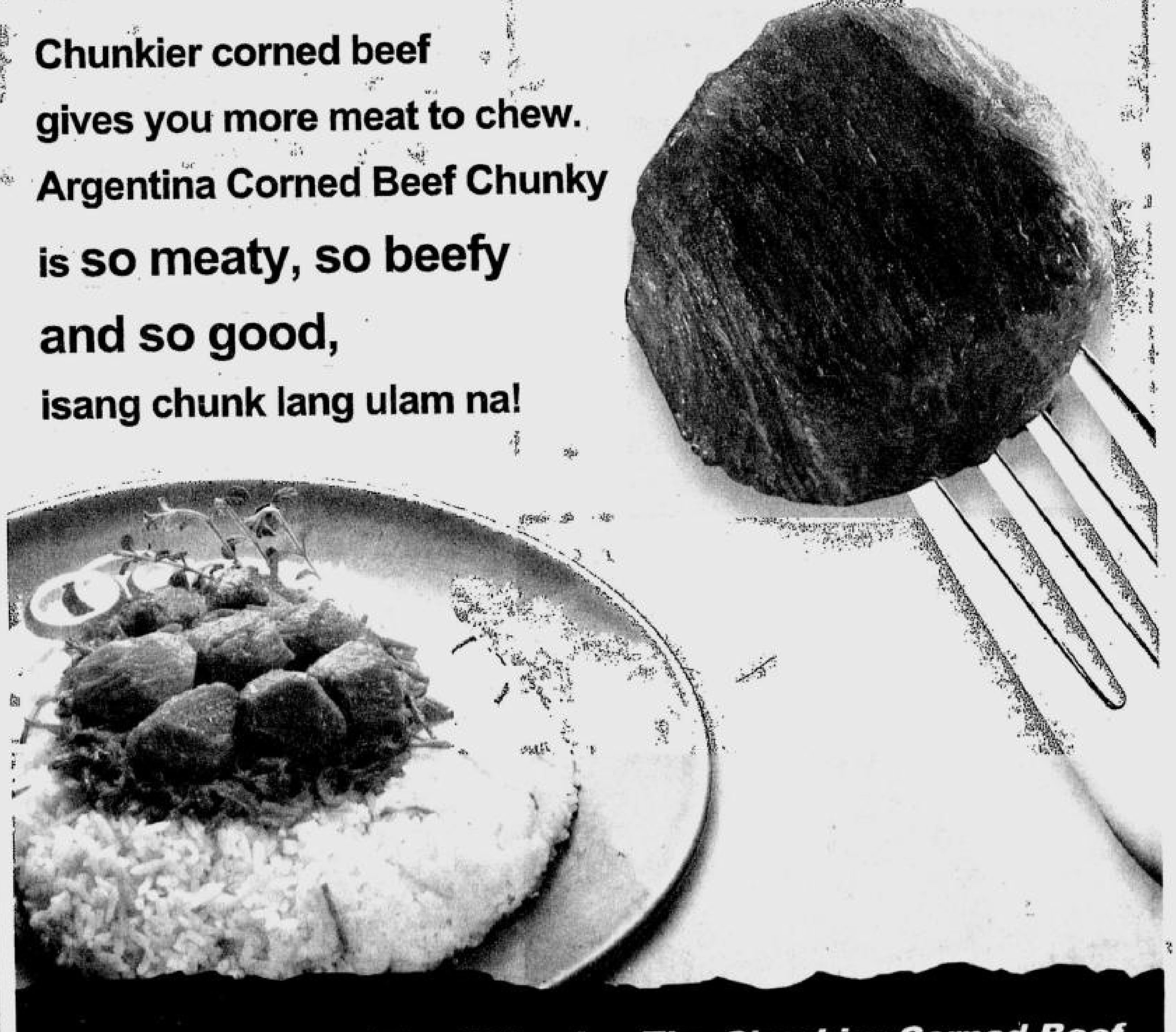
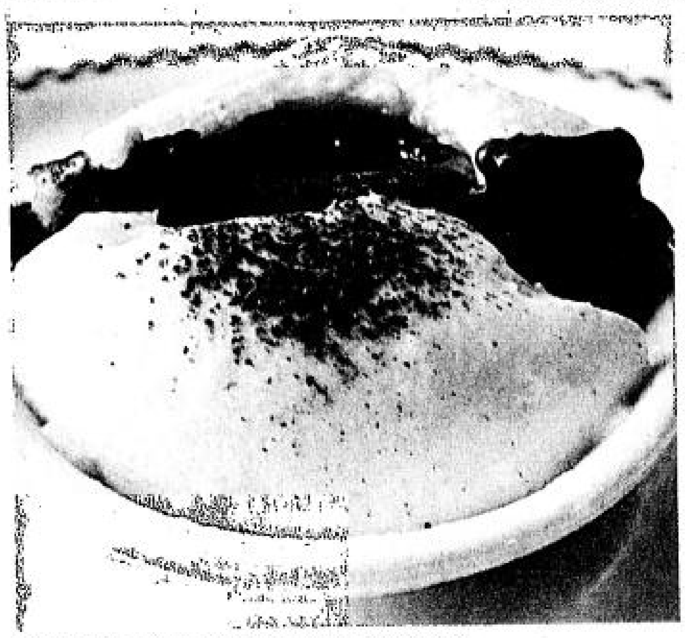

Argentina Corned Beef Chunky. The Chunkier Corned Beef.


TIRAMISU with Kahlua and maraschino liqueur

POACHED beef tenderloin in a light chive beurre blanc with Zucchini spaghetti, mashed potatoes and sautéed young spinach, topped with fresh horseradish shavings

LEMON-PEPPERED baby scallops and red coral trout on creamy leeks, sprinkled with pistachio oil set on grilled radiccio and beetroot pasta

Lunch with a view

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

RAIMUND Braun, Manila Diamond Hotel executive chef

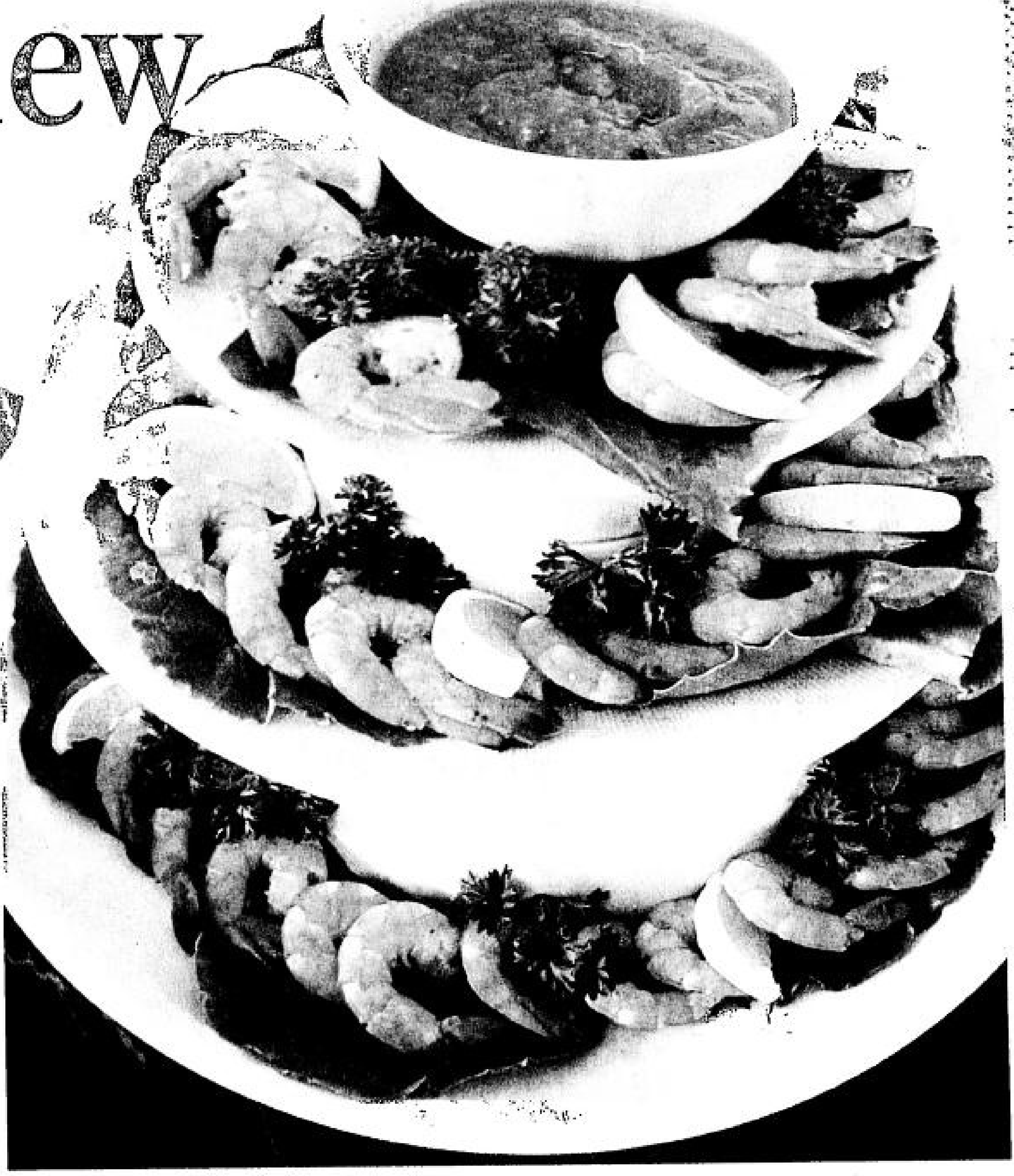
A HEARTY meal and a romantic view of the Manila Bay? Why not? With that come-on, how can you resist a meal at Manila Diamond Hotel's Le Bellevue?

Offering a ringside view of the magnificent Manila Bay sunset, Restaurant Le Bellevue on the 27th floor also has a classy and intimate atmosphere. And you can enjoy both, while partaking of the new Diamond Executive Lunch which includes an appetizer-salad-dessert buffet, plus soup of the day and a choice of one main course.

"We want to present Le Bellevue's Euro-Continental specialties in a more exciting way by offering a buffet spread of appetizers, salad and dessert," said Raimund Braun, Diamond Hotel's executive chef. "The main course, however, remains your personal choice from the menu of the day."

Individually plated

A different presentation is used for the new concept. Instead of having stainless steel chafing dishes, appetizers in small portions are individually plated. This is also true for desserts.


WHITE shrimp tower with spicy dip

BAKED apple amandine tart

FRESH ricotta cheesecake with mango sauce

The salad bar features an assortment of greens and other vegetables and dressings.

"We call it 'refined buffet,'" said chef Braun. "...this individual food concept... won't make you feel like you're going to a big banquet."

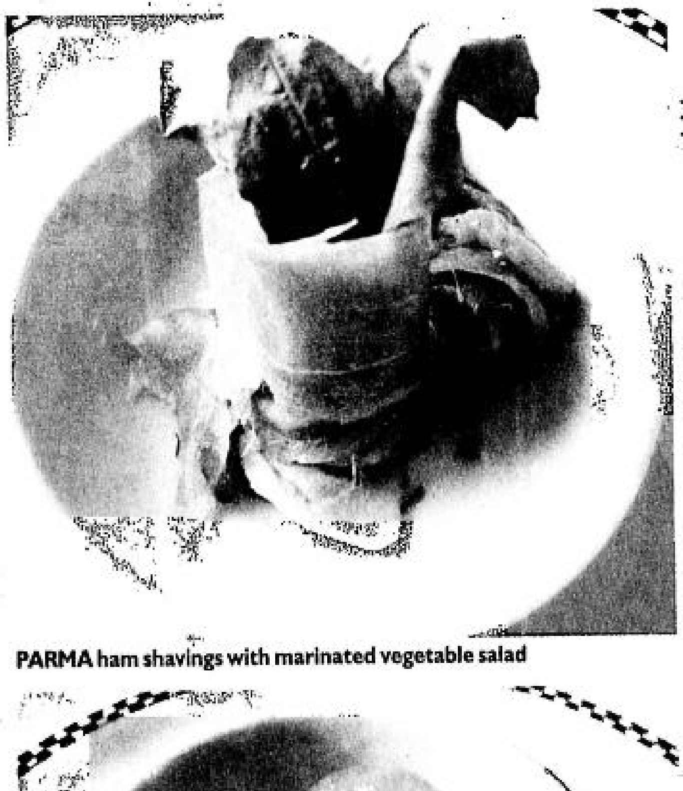
The buffet treats vary from Monday through Friday. But you can always look forward to some good choices every day. Appetizers include seared tuna baked in coconut shreds with mango sauce, white shrimp tower with spicy dip, carpaccio of red coral trout and salmon, wasabi mayonnaise and whole wheat croutons, poached lobster tail on mango chutney and tomato pulp and crispy lotus roots, and barbecued eel on red bell pepper vinaigrette, sesame seeds and sweet potato spaghetti.

Soups include cream of Pacific oysters with lemongrass, baked artichoke with chicken mousse dumplings, cream of Jerusalem artichoke and sautéed prawns, and clear salmon broth with saffron dumplings and small vegetables.

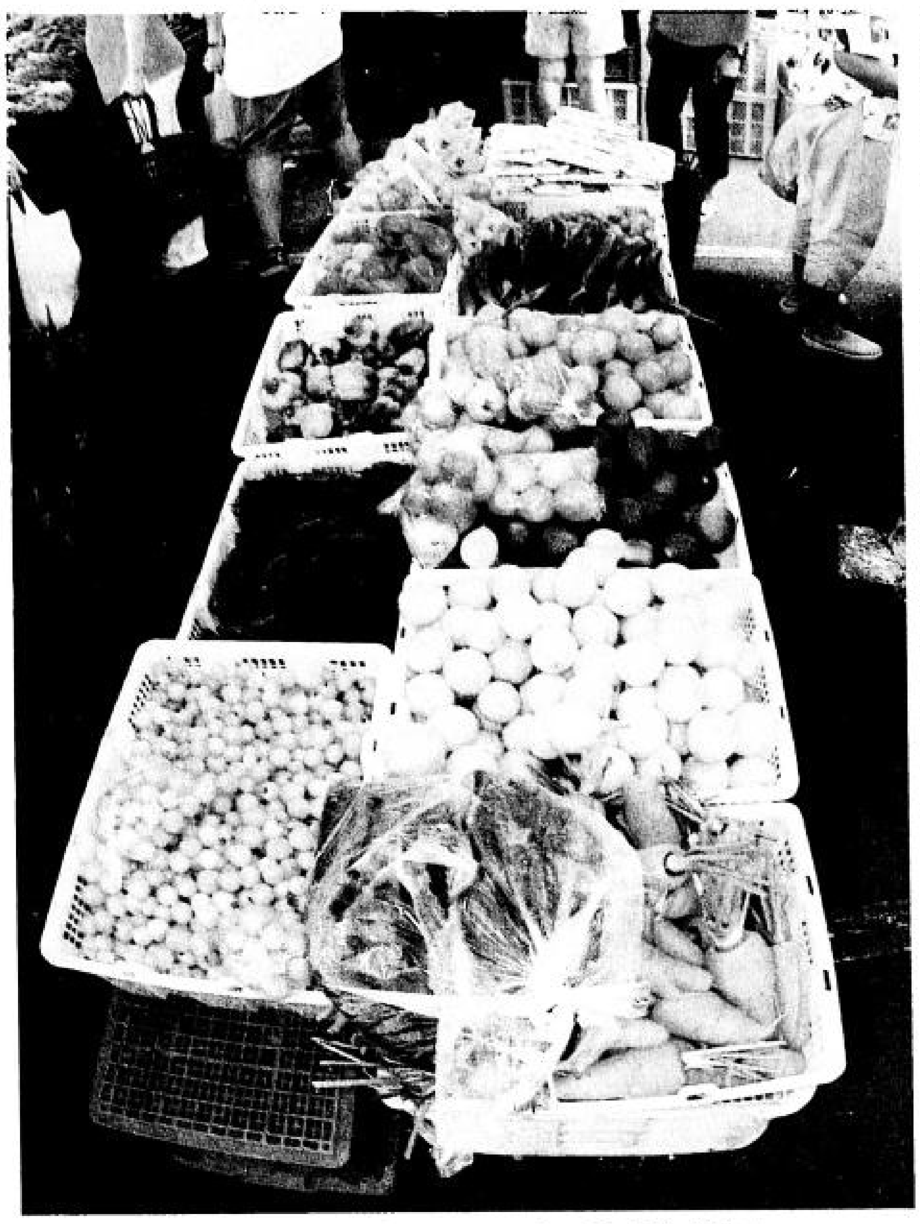
For the main course, which you can pair with the house wine—Shamwari from South Africa—there are, among others, Roasted Fillet of Baramundi in mustard grain coating with potato and green bean stew on pommery mustard sauce; Poached Beef Tenderloin served with a light chive *beurre blanc*, Zucchini spaghetti, mashed potatoes and sautéed young spinach topped with fresh horseradish shavings; and Crispy Duck Breast mixed with grilled duck *foie gras* on soba noodles flavored with lime juice and lemongrass with asparagus spears.

Cap your meal with any or all of the following: Caramel-glazed Crème Brulee, with rhubarb; Tiramisu with Kahlua and Maraschino liquor; Chocolate Mille-feuille with layers of chestnut, vanilla and coffee; Fresh Ricotta Cheesecake, with Mango sauce; and Baked Apple Almandine Tart.

Le Bellevue's Diamond Executive Lunch is priced at P850+. Manila Diamond Hotel is on Roxas Boulevard corner Dr. J. Quintos Street, Manila. Call 5283000 local 1905.


PARMA ham shavings with marinated vegetable salad

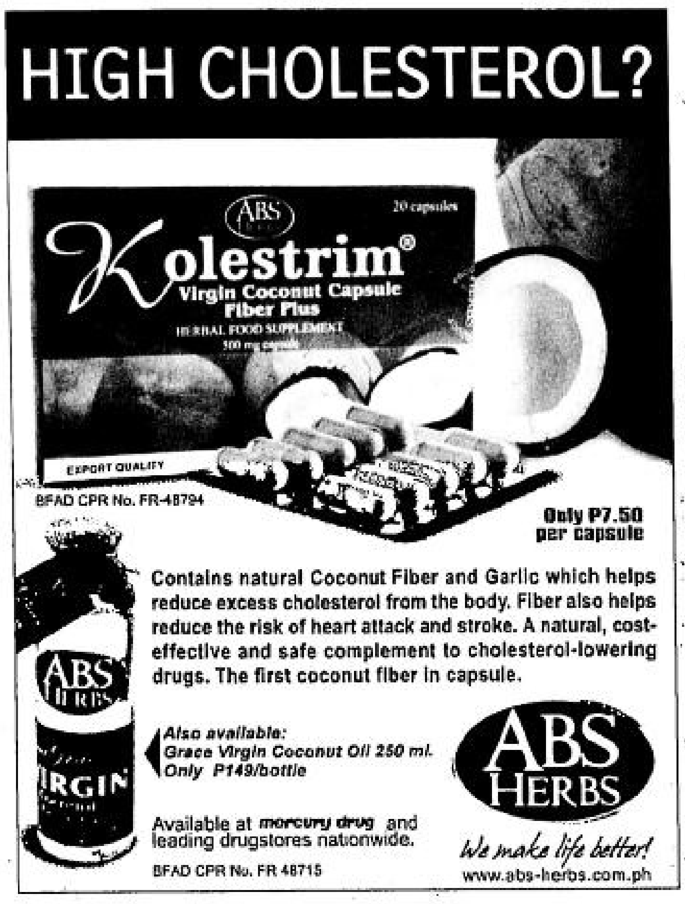
CARAMEL-GLAZED crème brulee with rhubarb



FRESH fruits and veggies are among the many attractions of the Salcedo Market.

SALCEDO Community Market's latest addition is Monasteryo, run by Eric Barr and Eric Castañeda. Monasteryo features dishes based on recipes from monasteries and convents all over the Philippines.

ANOTHER favorite at the market is homemade paella, both *valenciana* and *negra* varieties, by Margarita Sy.



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Saturday market turns 1

THE SALCEDO Community Market at the Jaime Velasquez Park in Makati City marked its first anniversary with a whole day of fun activities and live entertainment.

The day featured raffles, discounts and promos, as well as a marching band and *ati-atihan* dancers. A rondalla, Los Trobadores, performed Filipino *kundiman* and love songs. Also featured was an *angklung* ensemble and choir from Makati High School.

Guests of honor were Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and wife, Dr. Elenita Binay.

Bel-Air barangay chair, Nene Lichauco, said Salcedo Community Market grew from only 27 tables to more than a hundred, each vendor offering distinctive, hard-to-find products.

Lisa Ongpin Periquet who, with Trickie Colayco Lopa, came up with the idea of a weekend food and plant market for Bel-Air residents. She said the market brought together people who lived and worked in the community, while providing a useful service. She said the goods offered were unique, many produced by home-based entrepreneurs.

Among the regular shoppers who attended the anniversary were Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin and wife; Louie Barcelon; Makati councilor King Yabut, Barangay Dasmariñas chair Carrie Legaspi, Dr. Jaime Laya and architect J. Anton Mendoza, Lizzie Zobel and daughters Mercedes and Eugenia, former model Suyen Sia, "Travel Time"'s Susan Calo Medina, Chuchu Madrigal Eduque, lawyer Duane Santos and wife Mandy, Jackie Lhuillier Hess, Marylou Prieto, and former Tourism Secretary Tony Gonzales, with grandsons Jacob and Justin.

Makati Commercial Estate Association Inc. (Macea) president Adolfo Duarte was with granddaughter Rocio and son Ramon. Also there were Macea officials Jimmy Matias, Toto Cruz, whose wife Bessie was in charge of the Kapampangan section called Mekeni Abel

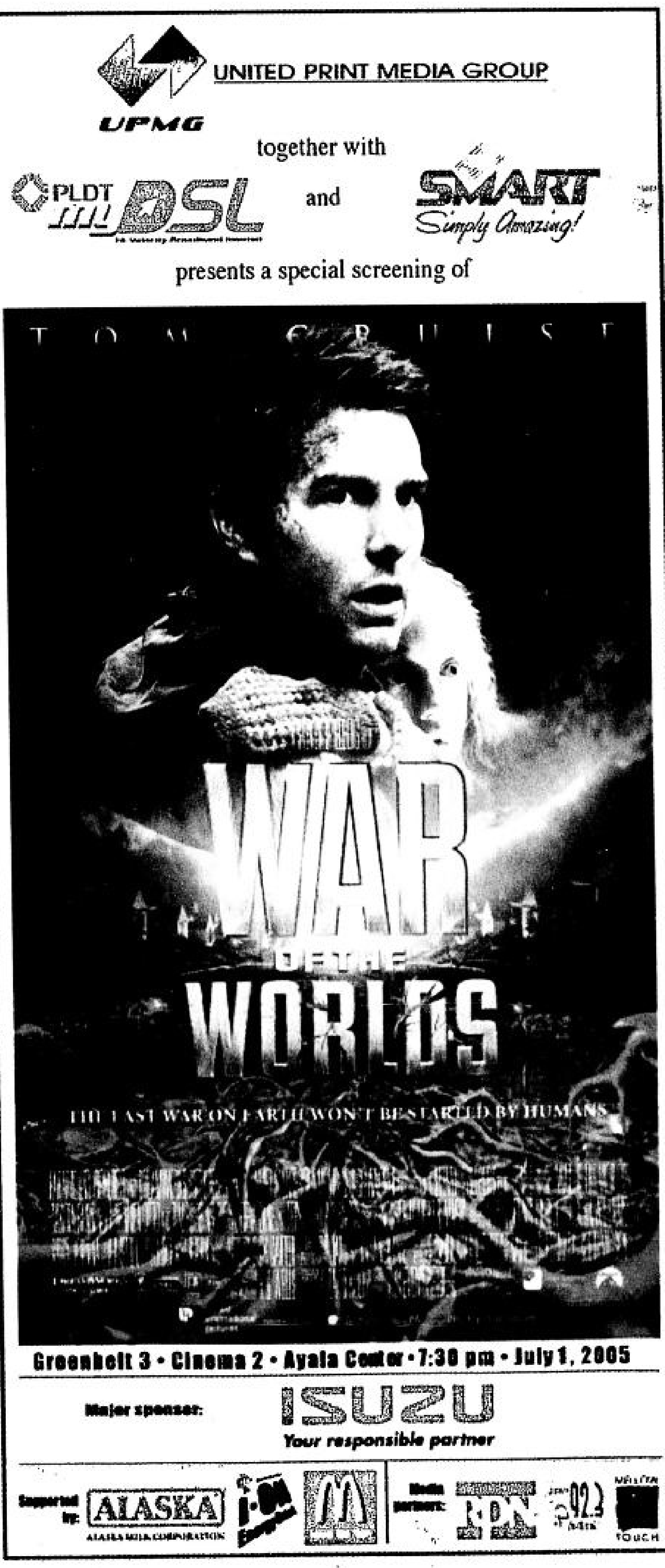
The Salcedo Market offers fresh seafood—fish, shrimps, clams, *ulang* and even seaweed; imported and local fruits, regional delicacies like *camamaru* (mole crickets), carabao's milk *maja blanca* and *pastillas*, *dayap*-flavored *yemas*, old-fashioned plate-sized *ensaymada*, *adobong itik* and *buko pandan*. Also available are *sinaing na tulingan* and other delicacies from Batangas, Bicol, Bacolod and Dumaguete.

The most popular section is the plant section that offers giant heliconia and bromeliads, and old-fashioned Filipino plants such as *champaca*, *ylang-ylang*, verbena, *rosal* and varieties of jasmine, bougainvillea and orchids.

LONGTIME Bel-Air resident Baby Quintos Jalandoni buys her weekly supply of fresh seafood—fish, crabs, *talangka*, *ulang* and even seaweed—at the Solaña family stall.

CEBU *lechon de leche* is roasted fresh and is a favorite among Salcedo customers.

ATI-ATIHAN street dancers got the anniversary off to a rousing start.



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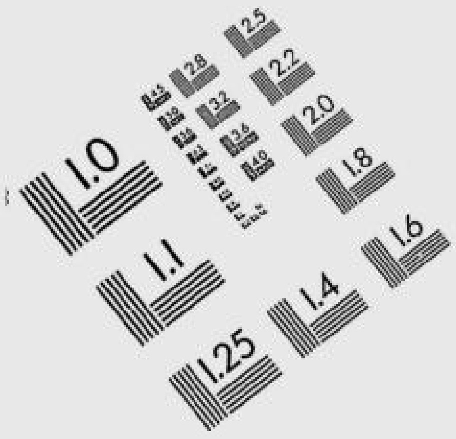

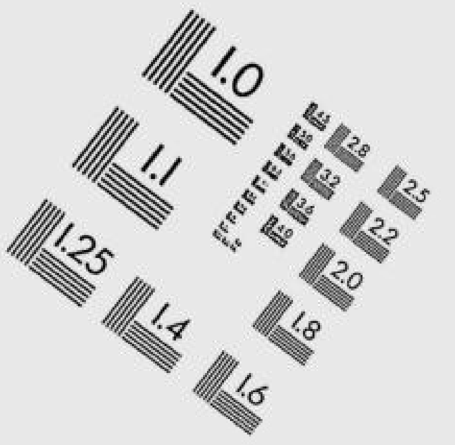

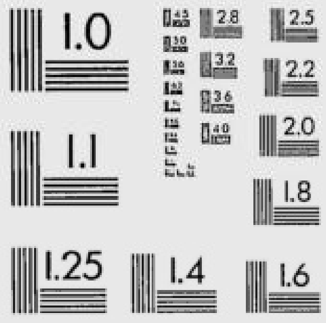
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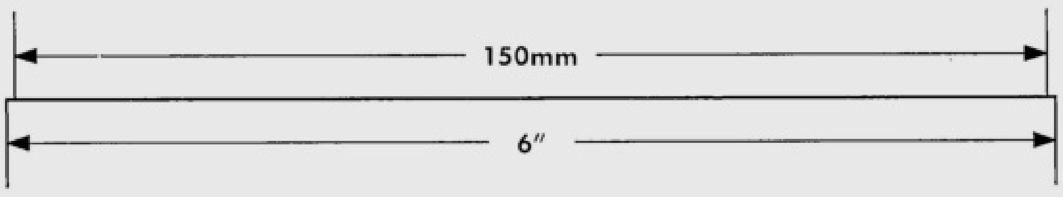

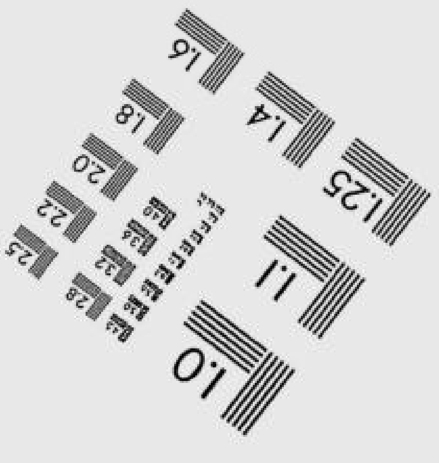

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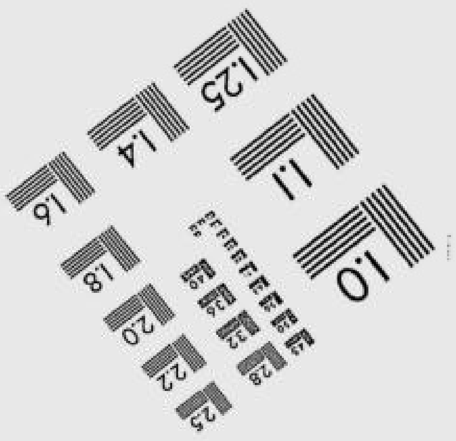

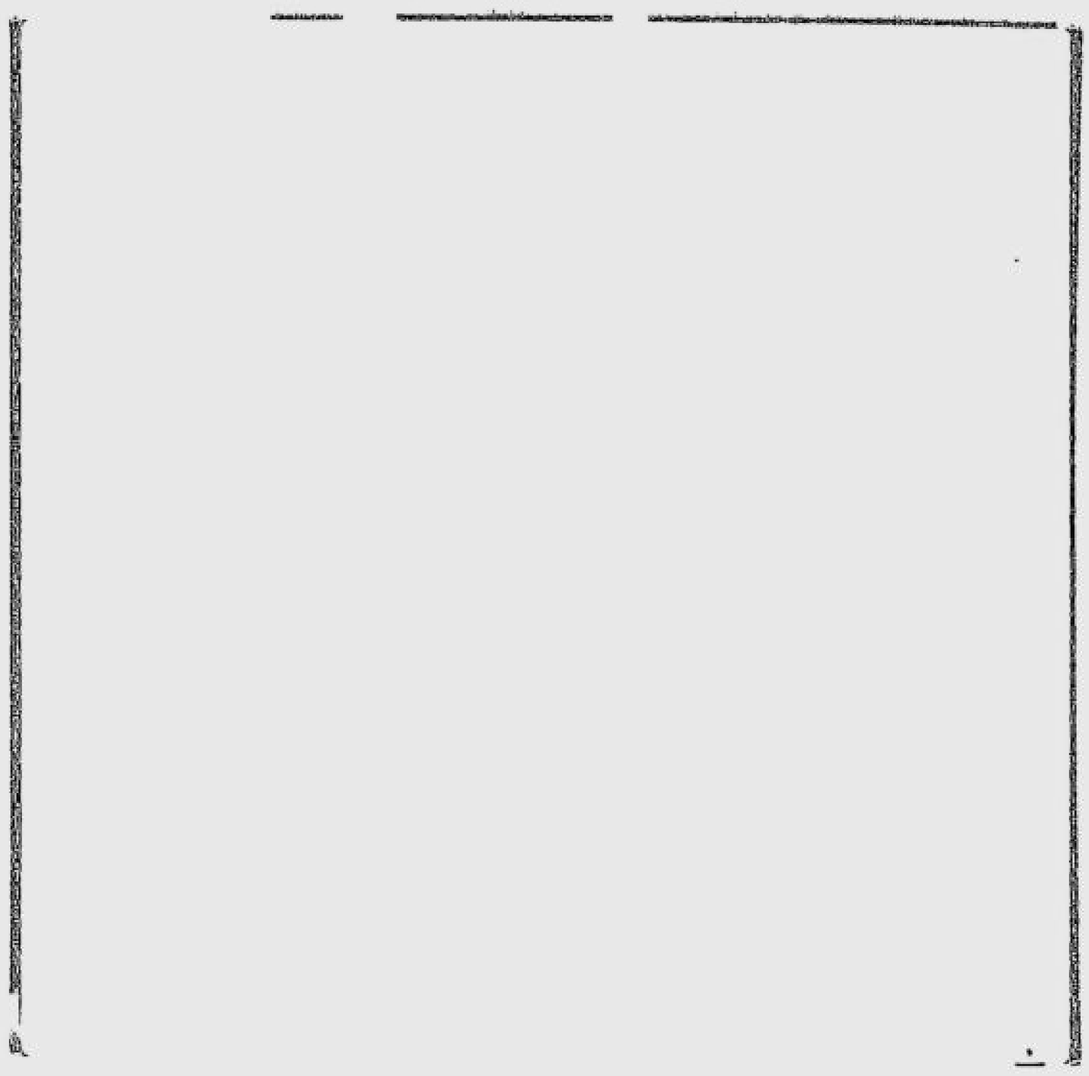

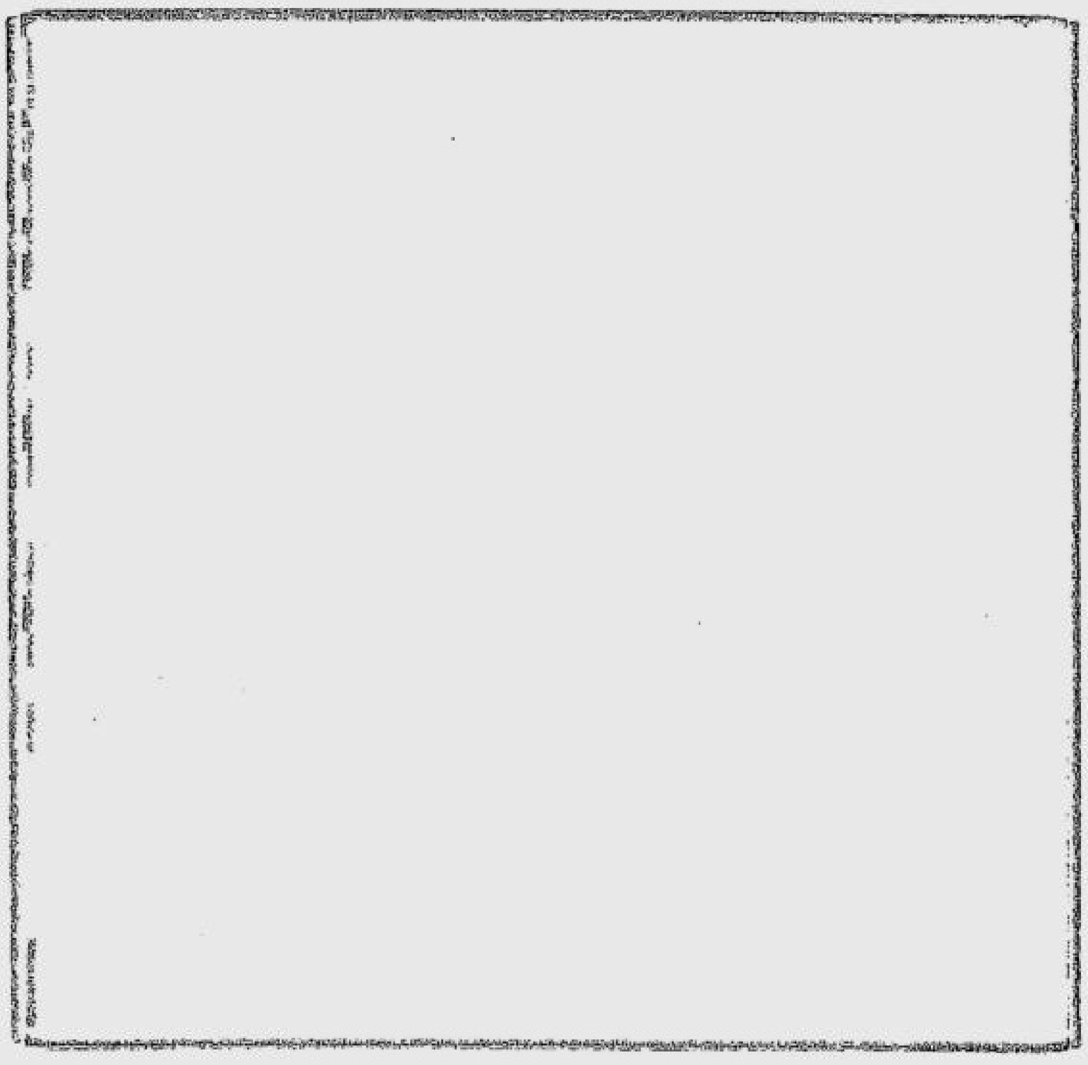

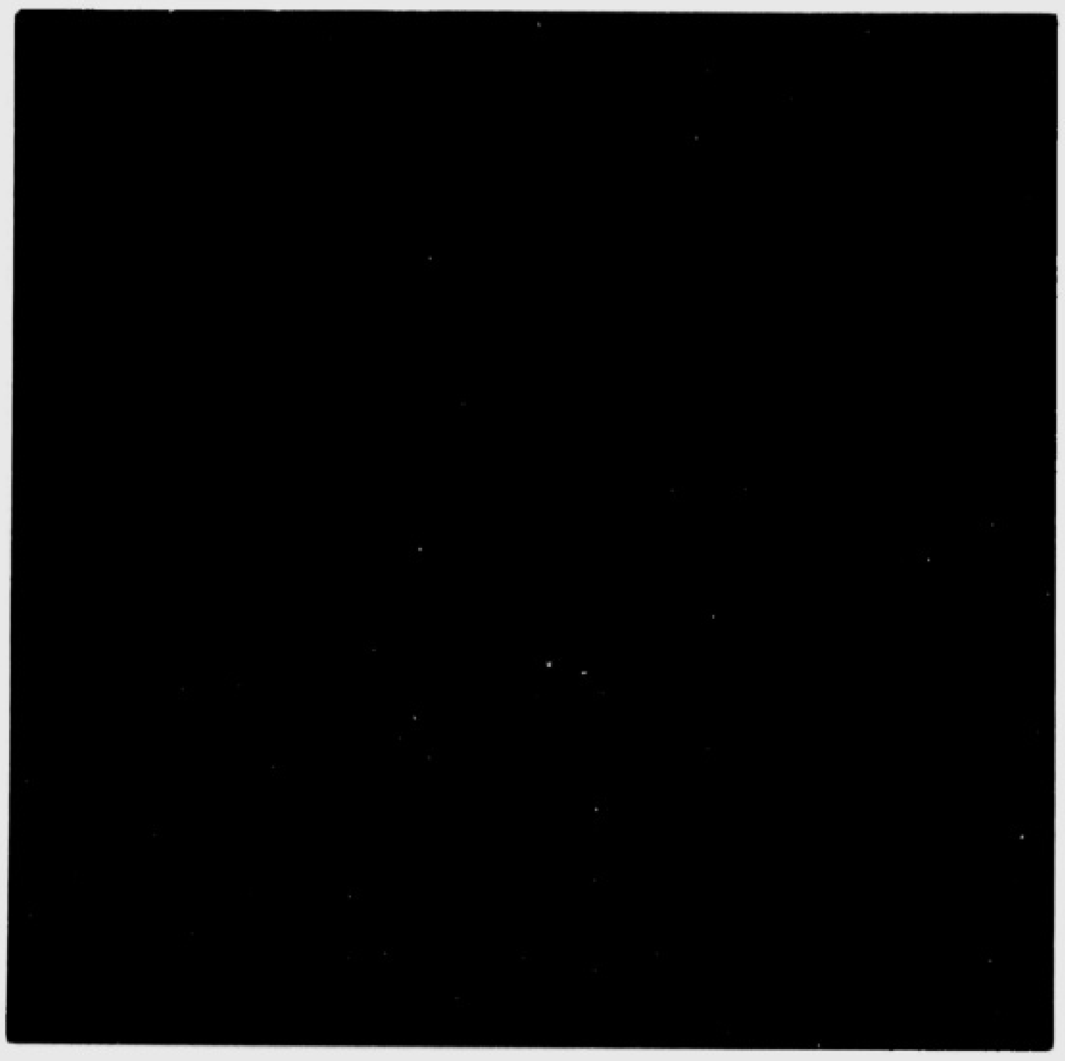

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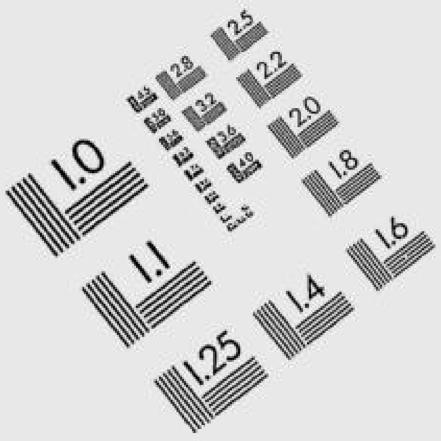
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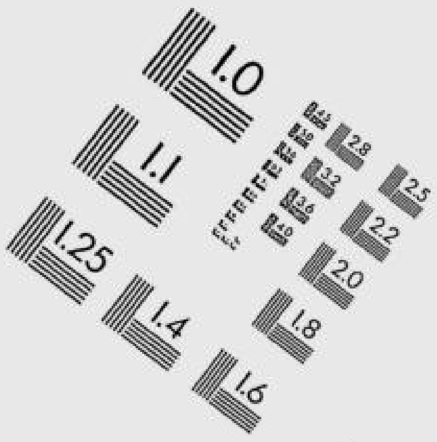
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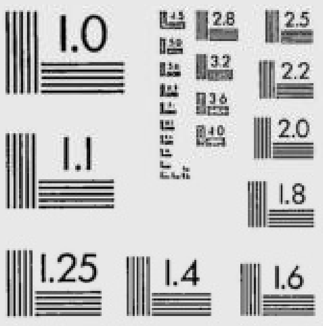
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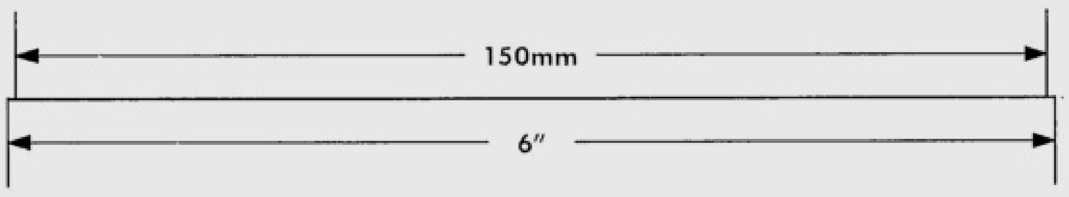

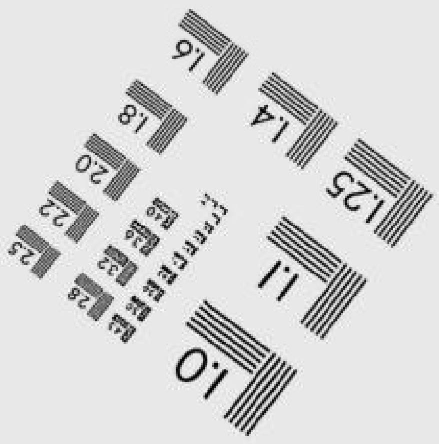
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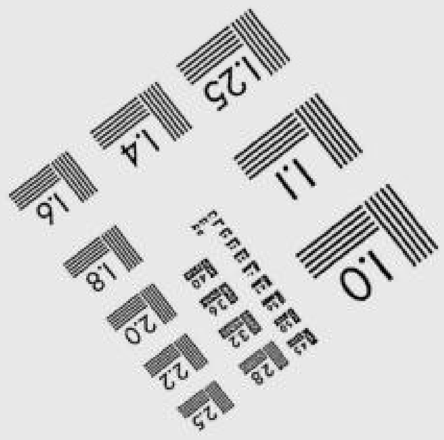
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